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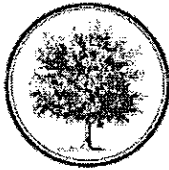
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Contact: Lisa Gates, Vice President of Comms

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 20, 2017

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The Buckeye Institute Files Amicus Brief in Janus v. AFSCME Supporting Free Speech

Columbus, OH - The Buckeye Institute filed an **amicus** brief with the Supreme Court of the United States in the case Janus v. AFSCME, supporting Mark Janus and the First Amendment. In the brief, Buckeye shows that unions can survive without compelled contributions and, alternatively, this change will lead unions to better serve their members.

"Forcing employees to pay for speech with which they disagree is a violation of their First Amendment rights," said Robert Alt, president and CEO of The Buckeye Institute. "Neither Mr. Janus, nor anyone else, should ever be forced to pay fees to a union just to keep their jobs. Such compulsion is fundamentally unjust and unconstitutional."

Illinois, among other states, forces public sector employees who opt out of the union to pay an agency fee, which is supposed to support the union for collective bargaining services, including lobbying on behalf of the union. As a result, Mr. Janus, a child support specialist with the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services, is forced to pay fees to the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), a government union, to keep his job.

As Mr. Janus said in a **January 2016 op-ed** in the *Chicago Tribune*:

"I went into this line of work because I care about kids. But just because I care about kids doesn't mean I also want to support a government union. Unfortunately, I have no choice. To keep my job at the state, I have to pay monthly fees to the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, or AFSCME, a public employee union that claims to 'represent' me...

"The union voice is not my voice. The union's fight is not my fight. But a piece of my paycheck every week still goes to the union. I am not anti-union. Unions have their place. And some people like them. But unions aren't a fit for everyone. And I shouldn't be forced to pay money to a union if I don't think it does a good job representing my interests."

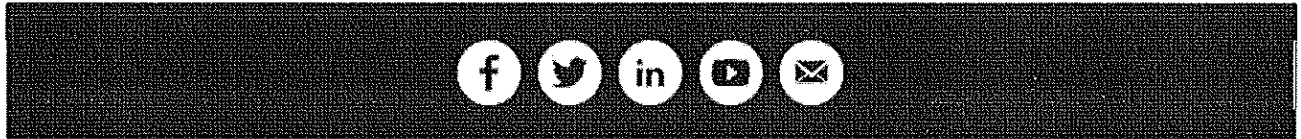
The Buckeye Institute's amicus brief was filed on July 7, 2017.

###

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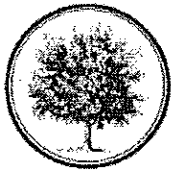
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THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

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September 28, 2017

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Supreme Court Takes Up *Janus v. AFSCME*

The Buckeye Institute's Amicus Brief Called for Protection of 1st Amendment

Columbus, OH - This morning, the United States Supreme Court agreed to hear *Janus v. AFSCME*, which The Buckeye Institute asked the court to take up in its amicus brief, supporting Mark Janus and the First Amendment. In its brief, filed on July 7, 2017, Buckeye showed that unions can survive without compelled contributions and, alternatively, that this change will lead unions to better serve their members.

"We are pleased that the Supreme Court will take up this crucial case to protect the First Amendment rights of public employees," said Robert Alt, president and CEO of The Buckeye Institute. "Forcing employees to pay for speech with which they disagree and forcing them to pay fees to a union in order to keep their jobs is unjust and unconstitutional. We are confident that Mr. Janus will prevail and that the court will rule in favor of the First Amendment rights of all public employees."

Illinois, among other states, forces public sector employees who opt out of their union to pay an agency fee, which is supposed to support the union for collective bargaining services, including lobbying on behalf of the union. As a result, Mr. Janus, a child support specialist with the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services, is forced to pay fees to the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), a government union, in order to keep his job.

Highlighting how union compelled fees undermine the First Amendment, Mr. Janus said in a **January 2016 op-ed** in the *Chicago Tribune*:

"I went into this line of work because I care about kids. But just because I care about kids doesn't mean I also want to support a government union. Unfortunately, I have no choice. To keep my job at the state, I have to pay monthly fees to the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, or AFSCME, a public employee union that claims to 'represent' me...

"The union voice is not my voice. The union's fight is not my fight. But a piece of my paycheck every week still goes to the union. I am not anti-union. Unions have their place. And some people like them. But unions aren't a fit for everyone. And I shouldn't be forced to pay money to a union if I don't think it does a good job representing my interests."

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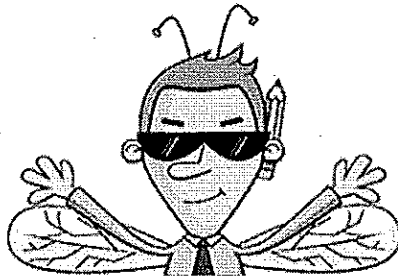
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THE EDUCATION GADFLY WEEKLY

VOLUME 18 NUMBER 2 | JANUARY 10, 2018

WHY DISPARATE IMPACT THEORY IS A BAD FIT FOR SCHOOL DISCIPLINE

By Michael J. Petrilli

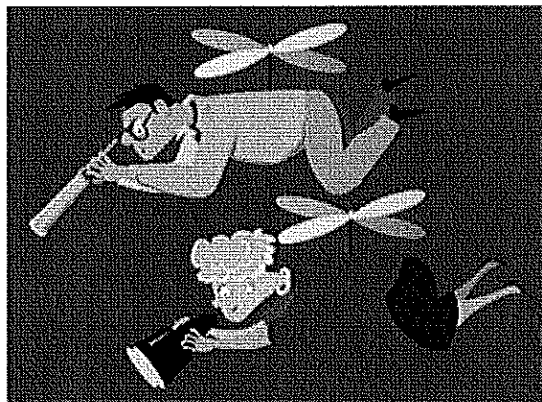
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Frightening the children

By Robert Pondiscio



How Ohio's walk back of graduation requirements is like overprotective parenting

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By Jamie Davies O'Leary

OPINION

Why disparate impact theory is a bad fit for school discipline

By Michael J. Petrilli

In 2014, the Obama Administration used a "Dear Colleague" letter to apply disparate impact theory to school discipline, warning that schools could be subject to a civil rights investigation if their data showed significant racial disparities in the use of suspensions or expulsions, and could be found guilty of violating federal law even if they had race-neutral discipline policies that were being applied even-handedly. This application incorrectly assumes that any racial disparity in discipline reflects discrimination rather than differences in student behavior, and it limits schools'

discipline options. This potentially leads to greater disorder and violence and harms well-behaved students of color the most. [Read more.](#)

Frightening the children

By Robert Pondiscio

Last month the *New York Times* profiled a “social-emotional-learning” curriculum inspired by a challenge from the Dalai Lama and developed at the University of Wisconsin–Madison. A teacher at a school that uses the curriculum was quoted as saying “Our world is kind of a scary place. We can’t always control what is happening outside us.” But which would have a more significant effect on students, particularly the very youngest ones: a good social-emotional-learning curriculum or a teacher who thinks the world is a scary place? Perhaps early childhood teachers who view the world as awe-inspiring and who are eager to share their optimism and excitement with students might be more beneficial than teaching coping skills. [Read more.](#)

How Ohio’s walk back of graduation requirements is like overprotective parenting

By Jamie Davies O’Leary

State-level policymaking should be like good parenting. It should incentivize the behaviors you’re looking to inspire, grant autonomy when your charges have earned it, and refrain from too much meddling or coddling. It should be transparent and honest, truthful about tradeoffs between short-term discomfort and long-term gain, and motivated by a clear compass rooted in what’s in the best interest of the kids’ wellbeing. So why does Ohio’s latest softening on what we expect of our high schoolers bring to mind so many parallels to helicopter parenting? [Read more.](#)

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THE EDUCATION GADFLY SHOW

A MASTER CLASS IN STATE POLICYMAKING

On this week's podcast, Benjamin Boer, deputy director at Advance Illinois, joins Mike Petrilli and Alyssa Schwenk to discuss how a coalition of advocates succeeded in getting the Land of Lincoln to overhaul its inequitable school funding formula. During the Research Minute, Amber Northern examines the relationship between high school value added and students' college success.



REVIEWS

STUDY

The link between the quality of high schools and their students' success in college

By Amber M. Northern, Ph.D.

Critics of test-based accountability sometimes argue that there's little evidence that schools that boost students' test scores also prepare them for long-term success. A recent Institute of Education Sciences-commissioned study by Daniel Hubbard helps to fill this gap. It finds a statistically positive relationship between high schools' value-added scores and students' first-year college course grades. [Read more.](#)

STUDY

School features associated with student growth in New Orleans charter schools

By Nicholas Munyan-Penney

A new study from Patrick J. Wolf of the University of Arkansas and Shannon Lasserre-Cortez of the American Institutes for Research examines charter school features that are most associated with high student growth in the Big Easy. Looking at fourteen organizational, operational, and instructional school characteristics, they find, among other things, that schools that include kindergarten, have an extended school year, and employ more experienced teachers all had

statistically significant associations with growth in ELA; the presence of kindergarten was also associated with math growth. On the negative side, higher percentages of teachers with a graduate degree and higher student-teacher ratios were associated with declines. [Read more.](#)

WHAT WE'RE READING

- "Timing, we believe, is an art. In fact, timing is a science." —[The Atlantic](#)
- The frustrating and paradoxical nature of progress. —[Washington Post](#)
- Although many of us are happy to say goodbye to 2017, it was actually the best year in the history of humanity. —[New York Times](#)

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- Will *Janus v. AFSCME* cripple teachers unions? —[Weekly Standard](#)
- Are universities fueling our hostile political climate? —[City Journal](#)
- Twenty-five years under Massachusetts's landmark Education Reform Act of 1993. —[CommonWealth Magazine](#)
- The surprising makeup of today's college students. —[Wall Street Journal](#)
- An editorial board's argument for keeping accountability in education reform. —[Seattle Times](#)
- Overcoming school choice's overlooked challenges. —[Washington Post](#)

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ICYMI

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FLYPAPER | JANUARY 10, 2018

Parent-teacher conferences: Harder to get into than a Jimmy Buffet concert?

By Erika Sanzi

Parents with multiple school-age children attend lots of parent-teacher conferences, and there's nothing universal about the experience. Some are great, some aren't, and the worst might be those at schools that don't provide meetings to every parent that wants one—a situation that's far too common. Indeed, most middle and high schools forgo conferences entirely. But there's something inherently wrong with this approach, and schools have to find a way to connect more teachers with more parents. Fortunately, some places do this well and can serve as models for those that don't. [Read more.](#)

FLYPAPER | JANUARY 9, 2018

Six intriguing candidates for New York City schools chancellor

By Charles Sahm

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With New York City Schools Chancellor Carmen Fariña stepping down and the de Blasio administration reportedly conducting a national search for her replacement, the director of education policy at the Manhattan Institute offers six serious (and not-so-serious) suggestions of intriguing candidates to run the city's schools during the mayor's second term. Hint: One of them wouldn't throw away his shot. [Read more.](#)

FLYPAPER | JANUARY 9, 2018

State ESSA plans embrace CTE, but there's still much work to be done

By Kate Kreamer and Ryan Reyna

The movement to expand career readiness is gaining strength across the country. That's what the executive director at Advance CTE and a senior associate at Education Strategy Group found in a joint brief that reviewed every state's Every Student Succeeds Act plan. Almost all include at least one strategy to encourage high-quality CTE, and, much more so than in the past, states are simultaneously creating more of these opportunities and holding schools accountable for graduating career-ready students. Unfortunately, it's too soon to declare victory because most states failed to fully leverage ESSA's flexibility to advance career readiness. [Read more.](#)

FYI

Register for “Making the Grade: Debating School Performance Ratings,” Thursday’s webinar from the Alliance for Excellent Education
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The Thomas B. Fordham Institute recently released *Rating the Ratings: An Analysis of the 51 ESSA Accountability Plans*, a report that examines rating systems submitted by all fifty states and the District of Columbia. This webinar will present the findings of that analysis, followed by a debate on the merits and downfalls of summative school ratings between Fordham’s Mike Petrilli and Phillip Lovell, vice president of policy development and government relations at the Alliance for Excellent Education. [Register now.](#)

Apply to be deputy communications director at the American Federation for Children
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The American Federation for Children is seeking a senior communications team member to help expand K–12 educational opportunities for families across the United States. The Deputy Communications Director will work extensively with the National Communications Director, AFC staff, and education reform partners in D.C. and the states to expand school choice nationwide. The position is based in Washington, D.C. [Click here](#) to learn more.

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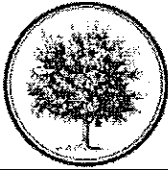
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Buckeye's Robert Alt Sat Down with IdeaStream's Ashton Marra to Discuss *Janus v. AFSCME*

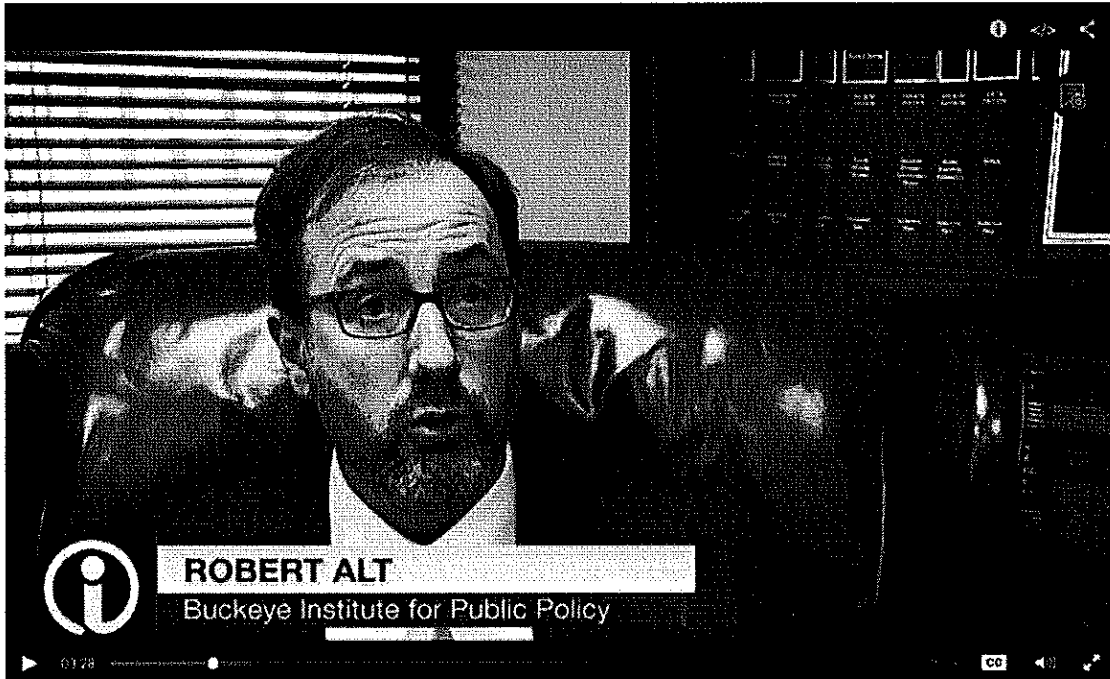
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The Buckeye Institute's president and CEO Robert Alt, talked to **IdeaStream's** Ashton Marra about *Janus v. AFSCME* and the impact it could have on protecting the First Amendment rights of Ohio's public employees.

In the interview, Alt said in regards to public employees being forced to pay agency fees, "You don't have a choice then on how it is that the unions use that money in terms of speech, what they advocate for. That's really the core of this case."

Read and listen to the radio piece at: <http://bit.ly/2EMIE8e>.

Watch the television piece at: <http://bit.ly/2CG11XH> (Segment runs from :56-6:27).



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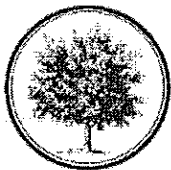
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THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Buckeye's Robert Alt, Rea Hederman, and Lisa Gates traveled to Washington, DC, for the oral arguments in *Janus v. American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, Council 31*, and a rally in support of Mark Janus and hard-working public employees this morning.



Robert Alt (center) with Mark Janus and Rebecca Friedrichs outside the U.S. Supreme Court after oral arguments.

Before they left, Robert commented on the union rally in Columbus on Saturday, saying:

"While some claim *Janus v. AFSCME* is an attempt to weaken unions, The Buckeye Institute filed an amicus brief demonstrating that unions can still **thrive without compulsory dues**. What will change if Mr. Janus prevails is that our hard-working public servants, even those who disagree with the unions, will have their First Amendment rights protected and respected. And that is something all of us should rally behind."

Before getting in line at 5:45 a.m. to attend the oral arguments this morning, Robert wrote a **piece for National Review** commenting on the funding of *Janus v. AFSCME*, saying, "What is surprising is the fact that Mark Janus is personally funding a cadre of high-priced lawyers with one goal: making sure that Mark *loses* his case."

After the oral arguments, Robert again offered his expert opinion to the press and his reaction to today's hearing, saying:

"What Mark, and others before him have done is not easy, but it must be done. It is immoral for the government to force hard-working public servants to pay for political speech with which they disagree under the threat of being fired. It is also unconstitutional."



Robert Alt talks with media about the *Janus v. AFSCME* oral arguments and what the case means for public employees.

While Robert was in the courtroom today, Buckeye's Rea Hederman was on the steps of the Supreme Court speaking at the Stand With Mark rally outside the Supreme Court.



Buckeye's Rea Hederman speaks at the Stand With Mark rally.

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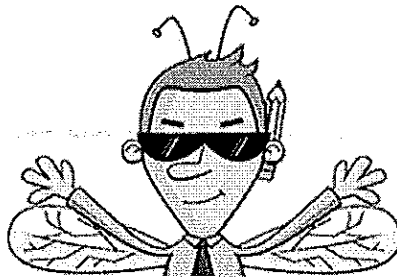
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THE EDUCATION GADFLY WEEKLY

VOLUME 18 NUMBER 9 | FEBRUARY 28, 2018

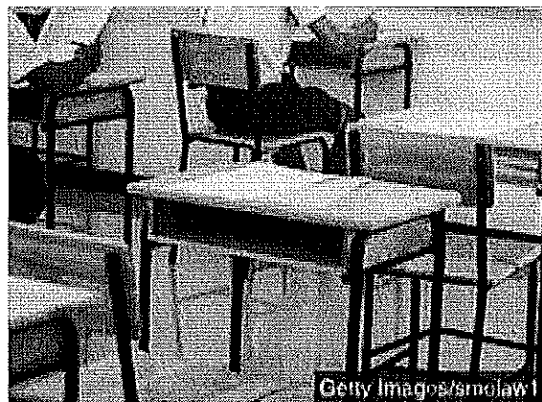
TO FIX THE GAMING OF GRADUATION
REQUIREMENTS, OVERHAUL HIGH SCHOOLS
AND OUR POLICIES GOVERNING THEM

By Michael J. Petrilli



Look beyond four-year graduation rates

By Peter Greene



Tie high school graduation to student attendance and passing grades

By Peter Cunningham

OPINION



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To fix the gaming of graduation requirements, we need to overhaul high schools and our policies governing them

By Michael J. Petrilli

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We armchair-quarterbacks of education have made a complete hash of the policies governing high schools and what's expected of young people seeking to graduate from them. Our first mistake was to set sky-high goals around graduation rates, while allowing local officials great

discretion in defining what it takes for students to earn a diploma. Our second big error has been to resist anything resembling tracking. Until we fix these problems, we should expect the cheating and gaming to continue. [Read more.](#)

Look beyond four-year graduation rates

By Peter Greene

Pressure to inflate grades, bogus credit-recovery courses, and plain-old D.C.-style fraud don't happen just because school districts are under pressure to graduate students. They happen because districts are under pressure to graduate students "Right Now! In Four Years!" argues a classroom teacher with almost forty years of experience. For all the reform talk these days about personalization and flexibility, we still deny public schools the option to say to a student, "We are going to get you through this. We are going to see you succeed, even if it takes a little bit longer than it does for some of your peers." That ought to change. [Read more.](#)

Tie high school graduation to student attendance and passing grades

By Peter Cunningham

At a time when people are questioning the validity of high school diplomas, student grades and attendance are effective metrics for determining whether a young man or woman deserves to graduate, argues the executive director of Education Post. Both are based on reliable data points that are unlikely to be corrupted if schools, districts, and states effectively design and oversee them. The metrics also put parents in a good position to judge school quality. [Read more.](#)

THE EDUCATION GADFLY SHOW

WHERE IS THE NEXT "EDUCATION GOVERNOR"?

On this week's podcast, Mike Petrilli, Chad Aldis, and Alyssa Schwenk discuss what it will

take to get gubernatorial candidates to embrace ed reform. During the Research Minute, Amber Northern examines the cost effectiveness and return on investment of charter schools in eight American cities.



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PARTICIPATE IN FORDHAM'S 2018 WONKATHON:

In light of diploma scandals in D.C., Maryland, and elsewhere, do our graduation requirements need to change?

For several years now, the Thomas B. Fordham Institute has hosted an annual "Wonkathon" on our Flypaper blog to generate substantive conversation around key issues in education reform. As in the

past, this year's competition tackles an important and pressing issue. A recent investigation revealed that several high schools in Washington, D.C., skirted district rules to graduate large numbers of students who didn't meet the standards for earning diplomas. And there are reasons to believe this type of malfeasance is happening in plenty of other places. It's not hard to understand why. For a decade now, school administrators have dealt with federal, state, and local pressures to hand out more diplomas. And everyone knows that a student's life chances without a diploma are bleak. Thus the temptation for educators to ignore graduation requirements has been pervasive. That's no reason to excuse cheating, but it does point to a larger systemic problem and a bona fide policy dilemma. So this year we are asking contributors to address the following question: What standards should students meet to graduate from high school? If you're keen to jump in—and we hope you are—[click here](#) to learn more about how to participate.

REVIEWS

STUDY

Conversation and language development

By Jeff Murray

Solving the “thirty-million-word gap” is not as simple as pouring more language into a child’s ears until she catches up with her peers. New research from a team at MIT points to “conversational turns”—defined as an adult utterance followed by a child utterance, or vice versa, with no more than a five-second pause between the two—as the best predictor of scores on standardized tests of vocabulary, grammar, and verbal reasoning. These findings were independent of parental education levels, socioeconomic status, and the amount of language to which children were exposed in the home. [Read more.](#)

STUDY

Are charter schools more cost-effective than traditional public schools?

By Nicholas Munyan-Penney

There's little research on how effectively charter and traditional public schools use their dollars to produce academic gains. So let's welcome a new report from Corey DeAngelis and his colleagues at the University of Arkansas that examines this issue in eight U.S. cities. They find

that, for every \$1,000 in school funding, charter schools produce an average of 4.34 more points on NAEP reading than traditional public schools and 4.73 more points on NAEP math. And in each locale, charter-goers enjoy higher projected lifetime earnings. [Read more.](#)

WHAT WE'RE READING

- Urban catholic schools are endangered species, leaving fewer quality options for disadvantaged students. —[U.S. News](#)
- What are 2018 gubernatorial candidates saying about education? Not much. —[Real Clear Policy](#)
- Ohio's graduation requirements are failing the state's students. —[The Columbus Dispatch](#)
- Teachers unions are poised to use Secretary DeVos to mute progressive support for school choice. —[BuzzFeed News](#)
- AEI President Arthur C. Brooks discusses "measuring the impact of ideas." —[Harvard Business Review](#)
- Is a college degree actually good for everyone? —[The Atlantic](#)
- Explainer: What will happen to teachers unions if they lose *Janus v. AFSCME*? —[AEI](#)
- Takeaways from the *Janus* oral arguments. —[Education Next](#)
- Secretary DeVos has changed her message around choice, but not her mission. —[Politico](#)

ICYMI

Let's make sure graduates actually know what's in the state standards

By Elliot Regenstein

A fundamental cause of today's graduation rate scandals is that districts are being held accountable for students satisfying metrics like grades and attendance that districts alone measure, says a partner of Foresight Law + Policy. As long as that is the case, the pressure to game the system will always be there. A better approach is for states to set standards that schools and districts can't finagle, like whether students have deep content knowledge in core subjects. In other words, start making graduation conditional on mastery. [Read more.](#)

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FLYPAPER | FEBRUARY 27, 2018

The art and science of charter school authorizing

By Michael J. Petrilli

For a quarter-century, those who oversee charter schools have tried to solve one of toughest problems in public life: How can public entities ensure that service providers do their jobs effectively and for a good price, without micromanaging them into mediocrity? David Osborne urges the government to "steer instead of row" by outsourcing the provision of these services to for-profit or non-profit entities, and holding them accountable for results. But this is not always easy in practice. Into this squall comes a new NACSA study on effective authorizing that's useful, authoritative, and nuanced. It doesn't pretend that there are easy solutions to the many dilemmas that afflict authorizers. [Read more.](#)


OHIO GADFLY DAILY | FEBRUARY 27, 2018

Behind the curtain of Ohio school choice

By Jessica Poiner

Whether it's a low-performing school, one that isn't the right fit, or both, tens of thousands of Ohio families have found themselves searching for a better place to send their child. The Buckeye State is considered a national leader in school choice, so in theory its families should have a menu of educational options. But in reality it still excludes far too many of the families that need them most. This is why thoughtful state policy is so important, and why Ohio lawmakers can and ought to do better. [Read more.](#)

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From: report@hannah.com

Sent: Wednesday, June 27, 2018 7:19 AM

To: Derksen, Nick

Subject: HANNAH NEWS UPDATE: SCOTUS Rules against Labor Unions

Follow Up Flag: Follow up

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In the case of *Janus v. AFSCME*, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled 5-4 that it's unconstitutional for public-sector unions to require non-members to pay fees for collective bargaining activities. Read more in Wednesday's *Hannah Report*.

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Breaking News

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From: The Buckeye Institute

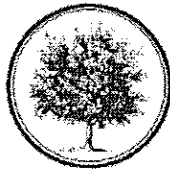
Sent: Wednesday, June 27, 2018 10:05 AM

To: Derksen, Nick

Subject: The Buckeye Institute's President and CEO Robert Alt: *Janus v. AFSCME*
Decision a Victory for Workers and First Amendment

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THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Contact: Lisa Gates, Vice President of Comms

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 27, 2018

(614) 224-3255 or Lisa@BuckeyeInstitute.org

The Buckeye Institute's President and CEO Robert Alt: *Janus v. AFSCME* Decision a Victory for Workers and First Amendment

Columbus, OH -- Robert Alt, president and chief executive officer of The Buckeye Institute, issued the following statement on the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Janus v. AFSCME*.

"The Supreme Court today in *Janus v. AFSCME* announced its basic rule of human decency and common sense: consent matters-and our hardworking public-sector workers can no longer be forced to pay for political speech or other activities without their affirmative consent."

The Buckeye Institute also announced the launch of its **WorkersChoose.org** website to assist public-sector workers with information about how to notify their unions about whether they would like to consent or not.

###

Related Content:

Robert Alt Statement Following Oral Arguments in *Janus v. AFSCME*, February 26, 2018

The Money Behind Janus: It's Deja vu All Over Again, By Robert Alt, *National Review*, February 26, 2018

Robert Alt Statement: Unions Should Rally Behind the First Amendment Rights of All Public Employees, February 24, 2018

The Buckeye Institute Files Amicus Brief in Janus Case, December 6, 2017

It's Time for Public Sector Workers to be Given a Voice and Choice, By Robert Alt, *Forbes*, November 27, 2017

Supreme Court Takes Up *Janus v. AFSCME*, September 28, 2017

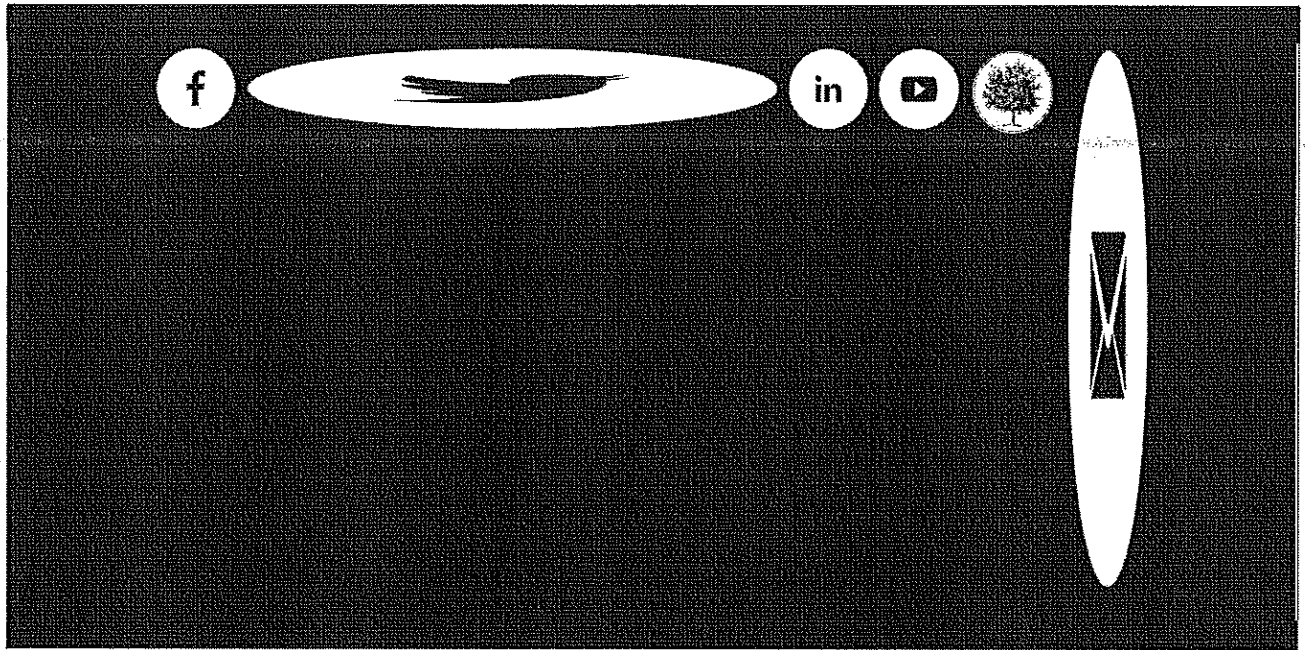
The Buckeye Institute Files Amicus Brief in *Janus v. AFSCME* Supporting Free Speech, July 20, 2017

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Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution -- a think tank -- whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

The Buckeye Institute is a non-partisan, non-profit, and tax-exempt organization, as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. As such, it relies on support from individuals, corporations, and foundations that share a commitment to individual liberty, free enterprise, personal responsibility, and limited government. The Buckeye Institute does not seek or accept government funding.





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Wednesday, June 27, 2018

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Sent: Thursday, June 28, 2018 8:01 AM
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Subject: Hey, you, behind the wheel: Turn off 'Survivor'

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TOP NEWS June 28, 2018

States cracking down on streaming video while driving

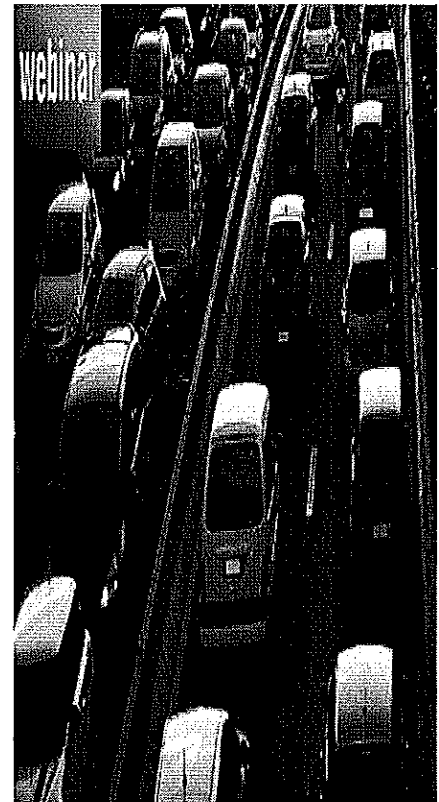
USA TODAY

Georgia isn't the only state to single out streaming as a new danger. A Washington state law, the Driving Under the Influence of Electronics Act, in January was the first to specifically mention video on phones. It even makes it illegal for Washington drivers to sneak a peek at their smartphone when stopped in traffic or at a stoplight, though they can touch a mounted or in-dash screen.

NCSL's Annie Kitch quoted.

[NCSL resources on distracted driving.](#)

'Now comes the interesting part' with online sales tax collections



Route Fifty

The court ruling in *South Dakota v. Wayfair, Inc.* has also left complicated questions in its wake. Like what the specifics of new state policies could look like, whether Congress will take action, and how companies that sell goods online will react. **NCSL's Max Behlke** quoted.

Maine legislature passes sweeping medical marijuana reform bill

Portland Press Herald

The bill, which now goes to Gov. Paul LePage, would let caregivers expand their business operations. For example, they could hire more than one worker, and sell up to 30 percent of their harvest to other caregivers and dispensaries.

[NCSL resources on medical marijuana.](#)

Ohio legislature passes blockchain legislation

Cleveland.com

Ohio is close to becoming the latest state to offer legal support for blockchain-based business transactions, following a Wednesday vote by the state's General Assembly.

[NCSL LegisBrief on blockchain technology.](#)

South Carolina lawmakers OK rate cuts for failed nuclear plants

Associated Press

South Carolina lawmakers have approved a temporary rate cut of nearly 15 percent for customers of a private

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Webinar 3 p.m. ET TODAY Federal infrastructure funding - an update while we wait

One of the most talked-about possibilities for federal action in 2018 is a new infrastructure bill that aims to inject what nearly all experts agree is a significant boost of funds for many of our national infrastructure systems.

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Supreme Court deals blow to unions in Janus case

The U.S. Supreme Court held 5-4 in *Janus v. AFSCME* that state statutes allowing public sector employers and unions to agree that employees who

utility who paid billions for two nuclear reactors that never produced power.

don't join the union must still pay their "fair share" of collective bargaining costs violate the First Amendment.

Commercial spaceports still waiting for liftoff

Stateline

Communities are eager to tap into the growing commercial space industry.



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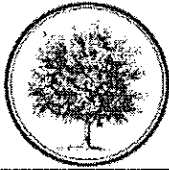
Sent: Monday, July 2, 2018 9:15 AM

To: Derksen, Nick

Subject: ICYMI: Buckeye's Robert Alt Looks at the Impact of Janus in The Columbus Dispatch & The Hill

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THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Following last week's Supreme Court ruling in *Janus v. AFSCME*, Robert Alt, president and chief executive officer at The Buckeye Institute, looked at what the ruling means for Ohio's public employees and government unions in *The Columbus Dispatch* (complete piece below).

Alt also had a piece in *The Hill*, where he wrote, "Consent matters. But you don't have to take my word for it -- just ask the Supreme Court of the United States. In *Janus v. AFSCME*, the Court's five-member majority held that the First Amendment protects public-sector employees -- including petitioner Mark Janus -- from being compelled 'to subsidize private speech on matters of substantial public concern' without prior affirmative consent."

Read the full *Hill* piece [here](#).

The Columbus Dispatch

Janus decision protects workers who dissent from union

The Columbus Dispatch

By Robert Alt

July 1, 2018

In *Janus v. American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, Council 31*, the U.S. Supreme Court decided that public-sector workers must affirmatively consent before any money can be taken from them for union fees.

Since Wednesday's ruling, folks on both sides have unfortunately succumbed to hyperbolic overreaction. The most cursory recollection of our country's founding reminds us that the same idea of consent was integral to empowering the government in the first place. Accordingly, it should surprise precisely no one that the court was concerned with the compulsion aspect of the case's facts.

Plaintiff Mark Janus -- an ordinary child-support specialist at the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services -- objected to paying mandatory union fees as a condition of his employment and lamented, "The union voice is not my voice. The union's fight is not my fight. But a piece of my paycheck every week goes to the union. I am not anti-union... But unions aren't a fit for everyone. And I shouldn't be forced to pay money to a union if I don't think it does a good job representing my interests."

The Supreme Court agreed with Janus that, indeed, consent matters. Common courtesy and basic human decency have always demanded it, but now -- in overruling its own 41-year-old precedent in *Abood v. Detroit Board of Education* -- the court found that the First Amendment requires affirmative consent when it comes to paying union fees, too.

Writing for a five-member majority, Justice Samuel Alito raised the court's objection to public employees being forced to financially support their unions, "even if they choose not to join and strongly object to the positions the union takes." Such an arrangement, Alito concluded, "violates the free speech rights of nonmembers by compelling them to subsidize private speech on matters of substantial public concern."

Unions will continue to serve their consenting members for generations to come -- only now they will do so more effectively, more efficiently and without trampling the constitutional rights of their members.

Any Ohio unions worried that *Janus* and other subsequent right-to-work laws will catalyze the end of unions and union membership can rest easy. Empirical studies and data from right-to-work states, including our neighbors Indiana and Michigan,

demonstrate that even after enacting right-to-work laws, union membership not only does not suffer but often increases.

In the first full year after Indiana's right-to-work law took effect, for example, the state added 3,000 new union members. Although union membership initially fell slightly after Michigan adopted right-to-work rules in 2013, it has since recovered, accounting for 15.6 percent of all wage and salary workers in 2017 -- up from 14.4 percent in 2016 and well above the national average of 10.7 percent.

After *Janus*, the quality of public-sector union representation inevitably will improve. Removing coercion and requiring affirmative consent will incentivize union leaders to be more responsive to the needs and desires of their union members, which will increase the value of union membership by refocusing the union's attention on increasing job satisfaction and working conditions for members.

Happier and better-served union members who have affirmatively consented to their union membership should be our shared end goal across the political spectrum.

Public-sector workers won the long-overdue right to be respected, irrespective of their individual decisions regarding union membership. And, in a nation founded upon the consent of the governed, the standard of consent adopted by the Supreme Court in *Janus* finally gives our hardworking public servants the voice and choice they have always deserved.

Robert Alt is the president and chief executive officer of The Buckeye Institute in Columbus.

###

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Subject: 'Right-to-work' group threatens to sue Ohio after Supreme Court ruling

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Friday, July 6, 2018

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Capitol Letter

Laura Hancock, Jeremy Pelzer & Jackie Borchardt



The west entrance of the Ohio Senate Building is a smaller-scale version of a famed staircase in the Paris Opera House, with Carrara marble from Italy and gold leaf on the walls. (Laura Hancock/cleveland.com)

Rotunda Rumblings

Just due it: A “right-to-work” advocacy group has threatened Ohio with a lawsuit if it doesn't immediately stop collecting union dues from non-union state workers. But cleveland.com's Jeremy Pelzer reports that the agency that handles payroll for state employees hasn't taken any action so far in response to the June 27 U.S. Supreme Court decision in Janus v. AFSCME.

Moving forward: Supporters of a proposed November ballot issue that would set new standards for dialysis treatment and cap what for-profit

clinics can charge submitted more than 475,000 signatures Wednesday, cleveland.com's Kaylee Remington reports.

Also moving forward: Supporters of the "Neighborhood Safety, Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Amendment" also submitted more than 730,000 signatures on Wednesday in hopes of making the November ballot, cleveland.com's Jackie Borchardt writes. The proposed amendment would reduce penalties for individuals convicted of nonviolent drug and drug paraphernalia possession crimes and direct the cost savings to addiction treatment and crime victim programs. The secretary of state's office has until July 24 to certify each proposed amendment collected at least 305,591 valid signatures.

All aboard: Columbus will have Ohio's first self-driving shuttles by December, writes cleveland.com's Laura Hancock. The city, state and Ohio State University are seeking proposals for companies that can operate a shuttle service downtown.

Back from the dead? The Libertarian Party of Ohio has filed petitions this week to regain Ohio "minor-party" status for the first time since the 2014 election. As Pelzer explains, if the party can get on the ballot this year, it's likely to run Columbus filmmaker (and anti-Gov. John Kasich satirical group founder) Travis Irvine for governor.

Jordan fights back: U.S. Rep. Jim Jordan, in an interview with reporters on the Fourth of July in Fremont, Ohio, again disputed claims that he knew Ohio State wrestlers had been sexually abused by a team doctor. Cleveland.com's Sabrina Eaton rounds up the latest in the nationally publicized story, including Jordan's assertion that an ex-wrestler making the accusations has sent him harassing emails.

Inside the Statehouse: Ohio officials laid the first cornerstone for the Ohio Statehouse 171 years ago. Cleveland.com's Laura Hancock shows the building's rich history with 16 images.

He's running: Literally. Cleveland.com's Seth Richardson caught up (no easy task) to Republican Attorney General Mike DeWine on the Fourth of July doing one of the things he loves best: marching in parades.

Richardson has an entertaining time-lapse video of DeWine logging nearly 8,500 steps before noon. The GOP gubernatorial nominee was of course accompanied by his wife, Fran, handing out her legendary cookbook.

Where are they now? The status of about 2,300 former students from the shuttered Electronic Classroom of Tomorrow is unknown, the Associated Press reveals. Many students from the controversial online charter school transferred to other schools, but the state doesn't know what happened to the rest, the AP reports.

No reply: "Records show more than 200 courts across Ohio failed to respond to Gov. John Kasich's executive order seeking more information on their history with the national background check database used in stopping gun-related crimes," reports Julie Carr Smyth of the AP. Those that didn't respond were mostly small mayor's courts, the report says.

Kasich, the anti-Trump: The governor is out with another op-ed, this time decrying President Donald Trump's trade war. The piece appears in the Financial Times.

Unfinished business: Ohio lawmakers sent a lot of bills to Gov. John Kasich before they took a summer break. But they left some high-profile legislation hanging, reports Carr Smyth of the Associated Press. That includes payday loan restrictions and a controversial "stand your ground" bill.

Preventive measures: The Washington Post looked at the case of the 4,000 eggs and embryos that were lost at the University Hospitals fertility center. The Post report features an interview with Ohio Sen. Joe Schiavoni who is working on a bill "he hopes will help prevent such disasters in the future and introduce penalties for fertility clinics that violate the new safeguards," Post reporter Ariana Eunjung Cha writes.

For what ailes you: If you're wondering whether your illness would qualify you for legal medicinal marijuana in Ohio, Borchardt created a handy list of medical conditions.

Full Disclosure

Five things we learned from the April 9 financial disclosure statement of state Rep. Jeff Rezabek, a Dayton Republican who is resigning to become a Montgomery County Juvenile Court judge. Gov. John Kasich appointed him to the new post Monday.

1. Rezabek reported earning \$25,000 to \$49,999 last year as an attorney in private practice licensed in Ohio and New York. He made \$65,476 as a lawmaker, according to the Ohio Treasurer's office.

2. At some time in 2017, he owed at least \$1,000 to Nelnet, Fifth Third Bank, Day Air Credit Union, Bank of America, Credit First, N.A. and U.S. Bank. His campaign committee, Citizens for Rezabek, owed him at least \$1,000 at some point last year.

3. The Ohio House reimbursed him \$3,197.38 for mileage between home and Columbus. The Ohio Judicial Conference gave Rezabek \$173.25 for a hotel room during its annual meeting in Columbus, when he participated in a legislative panel. The Ohio House Republican Organizational Committee paid for \$133.40 in travel. The Ohio Chamber of Commerce paid for his \$69 lodging at its Policy Conference at Salt Fork in September. The Campaign for Fair Sentencing of Youth paid \$487.40 for his hotel, meals and flight to a conference last year.

4. He received an unspecified gift from Virginia Ragan, a prominent Republican donor, worth at least \$75.

5. School Choice Ohio Inc. paid \$33.66 for Rezabek to attend a "lunch and learn" session March 30, 2017. He received at least one Dayton Dragons baseball ticket last year, worth \$20.97, from the Dayton Development Coalition. He also received \$58 in food at a Dayton Dragons game from the Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce.

Birthdays

Saturday: State Rep. John Patterson; Beth Vanderkooi, executive director of Greater Columbus Right To Life; James E. Campbell, Ohio's 38th

governor (1843-1924); A. Victor Donahey, Ohio's 50th governor (1873-1946)

Straight From The Source

"I normally only give this to mediocre college football coaches."

- Toledo Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz, while presenting a key to the city to Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur. Kapszukiewicz took some flak from Ohio State University fans and the University of Toledo earlier this year for giving a ceremonial key to University of Michigan football coach Jim Harbaugh. Harbaugh, a Toledo native, headlined an event there in May that raised \$100,000 for legal aid services.

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ROTUNDA INSIDER

Friday, July 6, 2018

Trump Defends Jordan as More Allege Sexual Abuse Cover-Up

President Donald Trump told reporters that he doesn't believe the growing group of former Ohio State University wrestlers accusing U.S. Rep. Jim Jordan (R-Urbana) of not reporting the sexual assault perpetrated by Dr. Richard Strauss. Jordan maintains that he did not know about the abuse taking place, the *Columbus Dispatch* reports.

<http://www.dispatch.com/news/20180705/trump-says-he-doesnt-believe-allegations-against-jim-jordan-new-victim-emerges>

Right-To-Work Group Threatens Lawsuit over Public Employee Union Dues

A Virginia-based group has threatened to sue Ohio and 19 other states, demanding that they immediately stop collecting union dues from non-union public employees in response to the Supreme Court's June 27 ruling in the *Janus v. AFSCME* case. The Ohio Department of Administrative Services says it has yet to take any action in response to the decision, *Cleveland.com* reports.

https://www.cleveland.com/open/index.ssf/2018/07/right-to-work_group_demands_oh.html

Records Show Many Courts Skip Kasich Gun Law Compliance Survey

While almost all of Ohio's common pleas, municipal and county courts completed a survey designed by Gov. John Kasich's office to assess use of the national background check database used in stopping gun-related crimes, over 200 courts were either non-responsive or returned partial responses, the *Columbus Dispatch* reports.

<http://www.dispatch.com/news/20180703/hundreds-of-courts-skip-kasichs-background-check-survey>

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Leadership for
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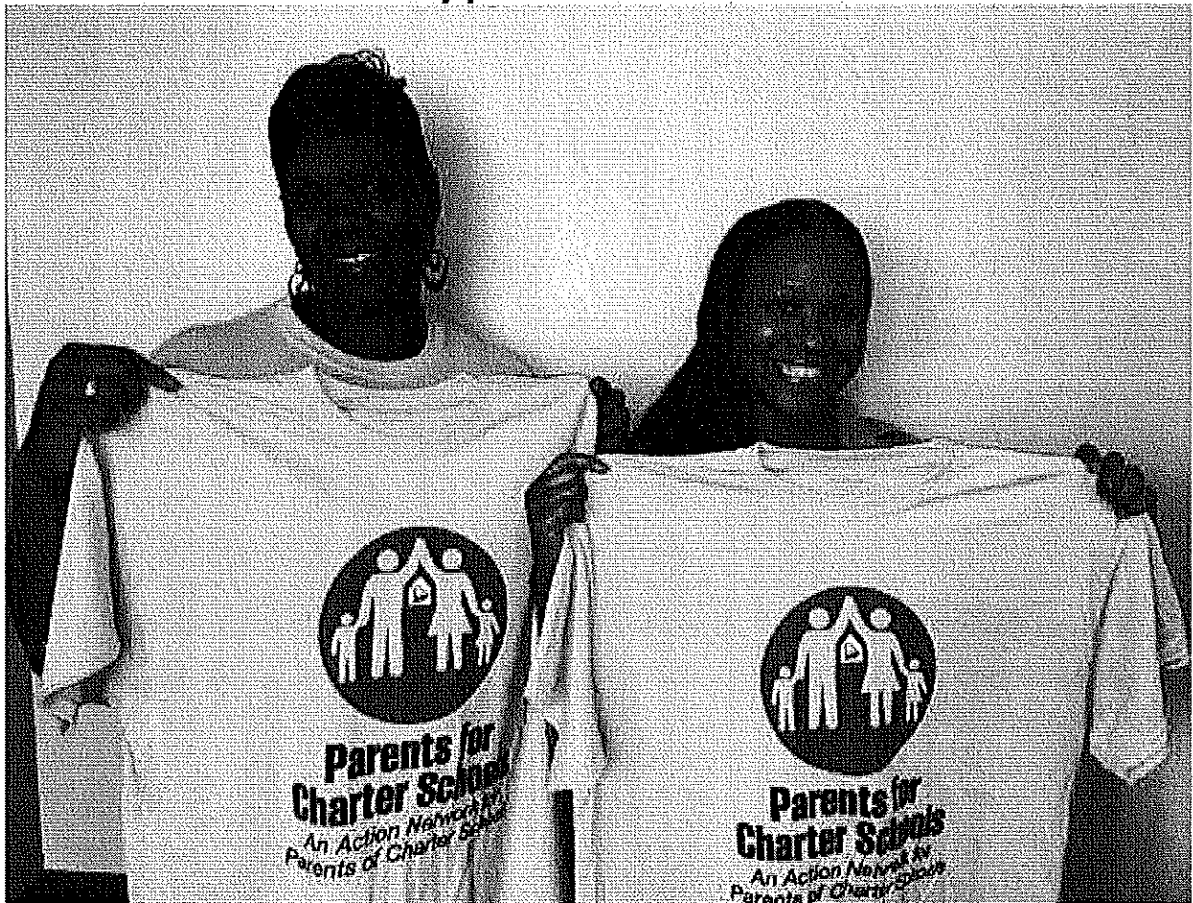


Constellation Schools - parents 'sign up' for Parents for Charter Schools

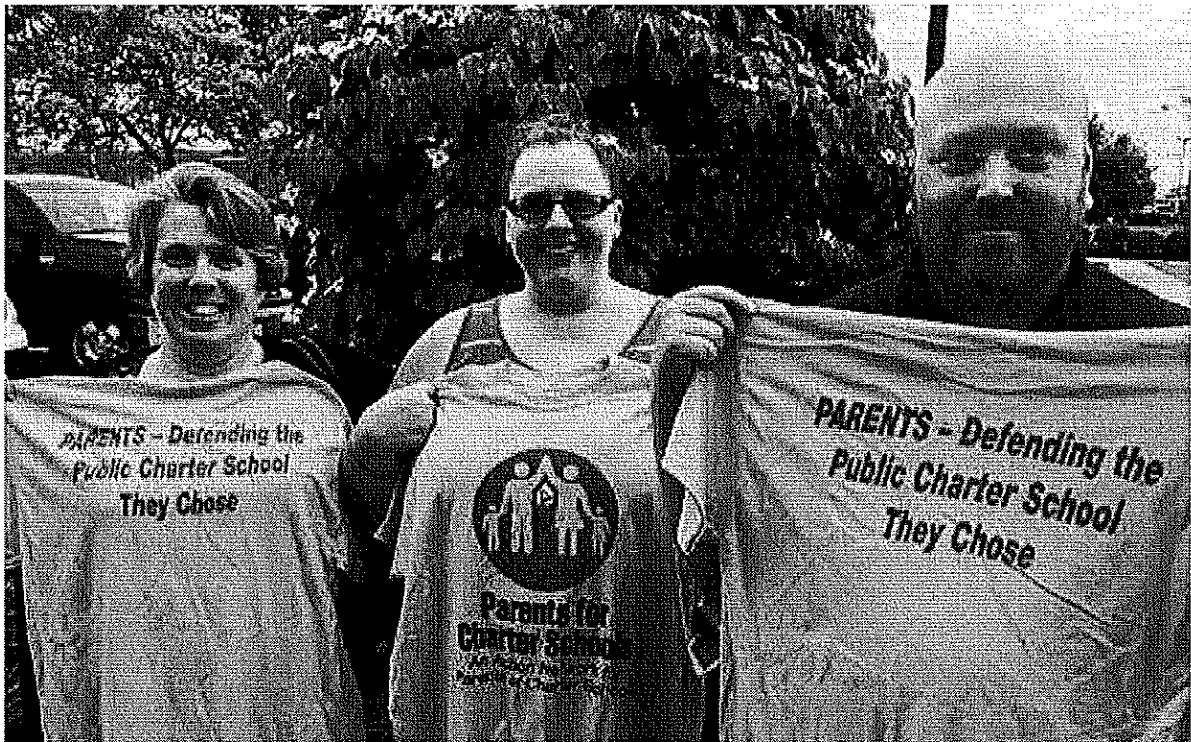
Constellation Schools is a premier management company of 21 outstanding public charter schools, all located within the greater Cleveland area. More parents want to defend their child's education and protect the public charter school that they chose. That's why they are signing up for - Parents for Charter Schools.

www.parents-charters.org

Lorain Community parents - Ms. Turner and Ms. Brown



Elyria Community parents - Ms. Janus, Ms. Hillbery and Mr. Wall



Each parent told their story about why they chose their Constellation School and why they feel passionate about their charter school. And they all gave the same reasons:

- * They love the small class sizes
- * The principal knows the names of every student
- * Their charter school offers a safe environment for their child
- * They love that parents are welcome in their charter school
- * They truly appreciate the character development that their charter school offers
- * Their child is excelling and are so happy at their charter school



Rebecca L. Keeney, Executive Director of Constellation Schools said, "All of us are so pleased that our parents are engaging with this new parent organization. We know that parents are the core of our charter schools and their voice can be a powerful force for their child's education."

Parents for Charter Schools Welcomes Constellation Schools Parents!

June 8, 2017



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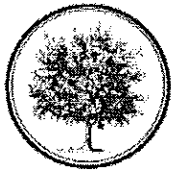
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July 20, 2017

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The Buckeye Institute Files Amicus Brief in Janus v. AFSCME Supporting Free Speech

Columbus, OH - The Buckeye Institute filed an amicus brief with the Supreme Court of the United States in the case Janus v. AFSCME, supporting Mark Janus and the First Amendment. In the brief, Buckeye shows that unions can survive without compelled contributions and, alternatively, this change will lead unions to better serve their members.

"Forcing employees to pay for speech with which they disagree is a violation of their First Amendment rights," said Robert Alt, president and CEO of The Buckeye Institute. "Neither Mr. Janus, nor anyone else, should ever be forced to pay fees to a union just to keep their jobs. Such compulsion is fundamentally unjust and unconstitutional."

Illinois, among other states, forces public sector employees who opt out of the union to pay an agency fee, which is supposed to support the union for collective bargaining services, including lobbying on behalf of the union. As a result, Mr. Janus, a child support specialist with the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services, is forced to pay fees to the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), a government union, to keep his job.

As Mr. Janus said in a **January 2016 op-ed** in the *Chicago Tribune*:

"I went into this line of work because I care about kids. But just because I care about kids doesn't mean I also want to support a government union. Unfortunately, I have no choice. To keep my job at the state, I have to pay monthly fees to the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, or AFSCME, a public employee union that claims to 'represent' me...

"The union voice is not my voice. The union's fight is not my fight. But a piece of my paycheck every week still goes to the union. I am not anti-union. Unions have their place. And some people like them. But unions aren't a fit for everyone. And I shouldn't be forced to pay money to a union if I don't think it does a good job representing my interests."

The Buckeye Institute's amicus brief was filed on July 7, 2017.

###

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Secretary Perdue Announces \$16.8 Million to Encourage SNAP Participants to Purchase Healthy Foods

(WASHINGTON, D.C., Aug. 7, 2017) – U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue today announced 32 grants totaling \$16.8 million to help Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) participants increase their purchases of fruits and vegetables. The program is operated by the U.S. Department of

Agriculture's (USDA) National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). The funding comes from the Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentive (FINI) program, authorized by the 2014 Farm Bill.

"These grants help provide low income families with the resources they need to consume more nutritious food. Last year, SNAP helped put healthy food on the tables of at least 44 million Americans, including 19 million children," Perdue said. "This builds on the successes of health-related incentives, with many of the projects being conducted at farmers markets. At the same time, we're also helping to strengthen local and regional food systems."

FINI is a joint program between NIFA and USDA's Food and Nutrition Service, which oversees SNAP and is responsible for evaluating the impact of the variety of types of incentive programs that are deployed by FINI grantees. The program brings together stakeholders from different parts of the national food system to improve the nutrition and health status of SNAP households. The awards under FINI represent a variety of projects, including relatively small pilot projects, multi-year community-based projects, and larger-scale multi-year projects.

Grants being announced, by state, include:

FINI Pilot Projects (up to \$100,000, not to exceed 1 year):

- East Bay Asian Local Development Corporation, Oakland, California, \$76,697
- Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services, Sacramento, California, \$63,494
- The Kenny Family Foundation, Wilmington, Delaware, \$45,000
- Presence Health, Chicago, Illinois, \$100,000
- Iowa Healthiest State Initiative, Des Moines, Iowa, \$99,587
- Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians, Red Lake Nation, Minnesota, \$78,188
- Capacity Builders, Inc., Farmington, New Mexico, \$26,478
- Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, New York, \$99,997
- Janus Youth Programs, Inc., Portland, Oregon, \$94,566
- Appalachian Resource Conservation & Development Council, Johnson City, Tennessee, \$94,211
- Richmond City Health District, Richmond, Virginia, \$98,108

Multi-year community-based projects (up to \$500,000, not to exceed 4 years):

- Community Services Unlimited Inc., Los Angeles, California, \$500,000
- Yolo County Health and Human Services Agency, Woodland, California, \$500,000
- FRESHFARM Markets, Inc., Washington, District of Columbia, \$250,000
- Atlanta Community Food Bank, Atlanta, Georgia, \$250,000
- The Food Basket, Inc., Kailua-Kona, Hawaii, \$500,000
- Heritage Ranch Inc., Honaunau, Hawaii, \$500,000
- VNA Health Care, Aurora, Illinois, \$488,090
- The Experimental Station: 6100 Blackstone, Chicago, Illinois, \$487,197

- Mountain Comprehensive Health Corporation, Whitesburg, Kentucky, \$307,916
- Crossroads Community Food Network, Inc., Takoma Park, Maryland, \$112,403
- Together We Can, North Las Vegas, Nevada, \$500,000
- The Fortune Society, Inc., New York City, New York, \$498,000
- Reinvestment Partners, Durham, North Carolina, \$398,960
- Youngstown Neighborhood Development Corporation, Youngstown, Ohio, \$498,880
- Nurture Nature Center, Easton, Pennsylvania, \$267,394
- Rhode Island Public Health Institute, Providence, Rhode Island, \$299,844
- Grow Food d/b/a Viva Farms, Mount Vernon, Washington, \$488,758

Multi-year large-scale projects (\$500,000 or greater, not to exceed 4 years):

- California Department of Food and Agriculture, Sacramento, California, \$3,944,573
- Community Farm Alliance, Inc., Berea, Kentucky, \$602,159
- Fair Food Network, Ann Arbor, Michigan, \$3,500,000
- The Food Trust, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, \$987,500

Among the grant recipients this year, The Experimental Station 61St Street, located in an underserved neighborhood on Chicago's South Side, will increase the affordability of fruits and vegetables sold in Illinois Farmers Markets for Illinois SNAP clients. The project aims to expand the SNAP Double Coupon Program incentive to an additional 80 Illinois Farmers Markets and direct-to-consumer venues. Currently, the project has funded almost 90 farmers markets and direct-to-consumer venues statewide and facilitated thousands of SNAP shoppers to purchase almost \$500,000 of additional fresh and healthy foods with the Double Value Coupon incentives. More than 22,000 low-income Illinois residents will benefit from affordable access to the region's freshest fruits, vegetables and other healthy goods.

Since 2014, NIFA, has awarded more than \$65 million through the FINI program. Previously funded projects include the Farmacy Health Improvement Program project that is researching the problem of low-income people with specific medical conditions (pregnancy, type 1 or type 2 diabetes, and hypertension and/or obesity) not having access to healthy foods, such as fruits and vegetables. As a result of this project, pregnant women and people diagnosed with type 1 or type 2 diabetes qualify for vouchers redeemable for \$2 per day for the patient and \$1 per day for each additional household member to purchase locally grown fresh fruits and vegetables. The Fair Food Network (Ann Arbor, Michigan) project developed solutions that work across the food system to support farmers, strengthen local economies, and increase access to healthy food—especially in low-income communities. As a result of this project, the “Double Up Food Bucks” program became a national model for other healthy food incentives that are now active in nearly 20 states. This project helps low-income Americans bring home healthier food while supporting family farmers and growing local economies.

NIFA invests in and advances agricultural research, education, and extension and promotes transformative discoveries that solve societal challenges. NIFAs' support of the best and brightest scientists and extension personnel has resulted in user-inspired, groundbreaking discoveries that combat childhood obesity, improve

and sustain rural economic growth, address water availability issues, increase food production, find new sources of energy, mitigate climate variability and ensure food safety. To learn more about NIFA's impact on agricultural science, visit www.nifa.usda.gov/impacts or sign up for [email updates](#).

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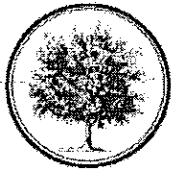
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Contact: Lisa Gates, Vice President of Comms

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 28, 2017

(614) 224-3255 or Lisa@BuckeyeInstitute.org

Supreme Court Takes Up *Janus v. AFSCME*

The Buckeye Institute's Amicus Brief Called for Protection of 1st Amendment

Columbus, OH - This morning, the United States Supreme Court agreed to hear *Janus v. AFSCME*, which The Buckeye Institute asked the court to take up in its **amicus brief**, supporting Mark Janus and the First Amendment. In its brief, filed on July 7, 2017, Buckeye showed that unions can survive without compelled contributions and, alternatively, that this change will lead unions to better serve their members.

"We are pleased that the Supreme Court will take up this crucial case to protect the First Amendment rights of public employees," said **Robert Alt**, president and CEO of The Buckeye Institute. "Forcing employees to pay for speech with which they disagree and forcing them to pay fees to a union in order to keep their jobs is unjust and unconstitutional. We are confident that Mr. Janus will prevail and that the court will rule in favor of the First Amendment rights of all public employees."

Illinois, among other states, forces public sector employees who opt out of their union to pay an agency fee, which is supposed to support the union for collective bargaining services, including lobbying on behalf of the union. As a result, Mr. Janus, a child support specialist with the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services, is forced to pay fees to the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), a government union, in order to keep his job.

Highlighting how union compelled fees undermine the First Amendment, Mr. Janus said in a **January 2016 op-ed** in the *Chicago Tribune*:

"I went into this line of work because I care about kids. But just because I care about kids doesn't mean I also want to support a government union. Unfortunately, I have no choice. To keep my job at the state, I have to pay monthly fees to the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, or AFSCME, a public employee union that claims to 'represent' me...

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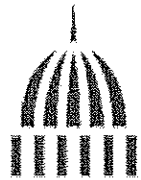
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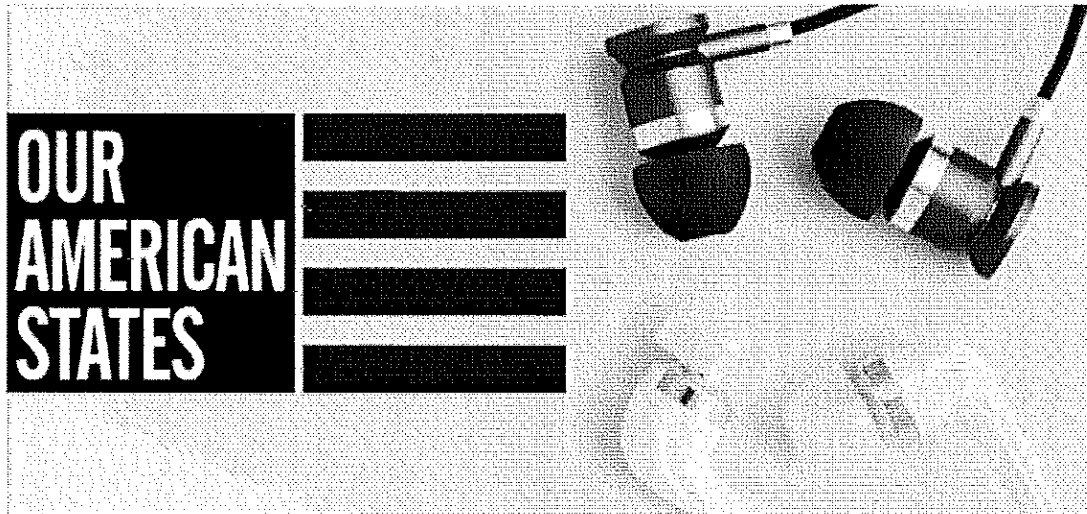
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NATIONAL CONFERENCE
of STATE LEGISLATURES

U.S. Supreme Court Cases to Watch This Term



Five cases that the U.S. Supreme Court has put on its docket for the current term could have a significant impact on states. State legislatures are waiting for decisions on these cases, and could cause them to change state laws depending on how the court rules. And a potentially explosive sixth case is waiting in the wings.

Our guests this episode are **Lisa Soronen**, executive director of the State and Local Legal Center, and **Susan Frederick**, senior federal affairs counsel at NCSL.

The cases we examine are:

- *Gill v. Whitford*, a Wisconsin case in which the court may decide whether partisan gerrymandering is unconstitutional.
- *Masterpiece Cakeshop, Ltd. v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission*, looks at whether Colorado's public accommodations law violates a cake artist's First Amendment free speech and free exercise rights.
- *Janus v. American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees* the court will address whether unions can collect dues from nonmembers.
- *Husted v. A. Philip Randolph Institute* looks at Ohio's procedures to remove voters from their rolls after four years of inactivity.
- *Christie v. National Collegiate Athletic Association* may decide how far Congress can regulate states and localities in the absence of comprehensive federal regulation.

And, as a bonus, we'll discuss what could happen if the court accepts a South Dakota case that could overturn the 1992 *Quill*.

Don't miss these past episodes of Our American States:

The Role of States and Governments in Natural Disasters

Cybersecurity: It's More Than Elections

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Corp v North Dakota, which said states could not force business to collect sales or use taxes unless it has a physical presence in a state.

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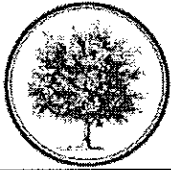
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Subject: Buckeye President Robert Alt in Forbes: American Workers Deserve Voting Rights

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THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

In between the numerous "Giving Tuesday" emails you have likely received today, we hope you will take a minute to read Robert Alt's compelling piece in *Forbes*.

In the article, Robert argues that we need to change our laws in order to empower public-sector workers with the voting rights they deserve.

Who among us believes it is fair that these workers are being denied the right to vote and the ability to have a voice or a choice on which union represents them? Not your Buckeye Institute. We stand solidly in favor of **Worker Voting Rights** and believe workers deserve a voice and a choice in their representation.

Buckeye President & CEO Robert Alt has been featured on more than 70 radio shows across the country in the past few months talking about Buckeye's Worker Voting Rights project, which is quickly gaining momentum, earning media attention, and catalyzing action.

As Robert describes in the *Forbes* piece in more detail (see below for the full article or [click through to Forbes directly](#)), the time has come and the time is right now for Worker Voting Rights.

Forbes

It's Time For Public Sector Workers To Be Given A Voice And Choice

Forbes

By Robert Alt

November 27, 2017

Early next year, the Supreme Court will hear *Janus v. American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, Council 31*. Mark Janus is a child support specialist at the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Service who objects to paying union fees, which are currently a condition of his employment. He argues that the compulsory fees force him to speak through his union in ways that violate his First Amendment rights.

If Mr. Janus prevails, he and other public-sector employees will be able to choose whether or not to pay union dues or fees without threat of being fired, which would be a tremendous victory for workers. However, even if Mr. Janus wins in court, public sector union members will still have no say regarding which union represents their bargaining unit.

Every morning, hardworking men and women in every state drink their coffee and diligently go to work on our behalf -- in our neighborhoods as public school teachers, home care workers, engineers, and in agencies protecting the environment. Unfortunately, while these civic-minded professionals go to work for us, the labor unions that they must join in order to teach our children or serve our communities do not always work for them.

Once a public-sector union is certified, it remains the workers' representative -- potentially forever. In Ohio, for example, the Columbus Education Association has represented Columbus public school teachers since 1968 -- back when the Beatles were still together and before many of today's teachers were even born.

Heirloom unions inherited from the Nixon-era are depriving today's public workers and civil servants of any meaningful voice or choice in their workplace. Ninety-four percent of union workers have **never had the chance to vote for or against their unions --** and still won't even if Janus succeeds in his case.

When a public-sector union fails to address employee complaints or misspends union dues, there is no ballot to cast for change. Instead, public employees remain stuck with the hand-me-down unions that workers who wore bell-bottoms chose for them.

There is a solution.

With worker voting rights, public employees would have regular elections to encourage their unions to be more responsive to their members' interests. Worker voting rights gives union workers an opportunity to be heard, to voice their concerns to their union leaders, to better understand how their union dues are spent, and to choose for themselves whether to keep the union they have, vote their union out, or vote in a better union. Worker voting rights would incentivize union leaders to cultivate broader support among the workforce they represent and to be accountable to their rank-and-file members. Not surprisingly, 82% of unionized Americans **favor holding periodic votes on their union representation.**

Once-and-for-all unions that rarely -- if ever -- face re-election have no worry of being fired by their members for poor performance or disregarding members' concerns. In states that require workers to pay "fair share" fees as a condition of employment, union leadership failure has next to no consequences, because whether the union negotiates better working conditions for its members or not, whether it spends union dues wisely or not, whether it meets the needs of its members or not, there is almost nothing public employees can do to replace or remove the poorly performing union. Even if these public employees are dissatisfied with their representation, they have to continue paying their union dues or fair share fees, or else their employment can be legally terminated.

Public-sector unions and their insulated union officials know and count on this questionable practice of denying their members voting rights, allowing unions that are not taking care of their members to remain firmly entrenched regardless of their members' satisfaction. But state lawmakers can guarantee worker voting rights for public employees by providing for regular elections by law.

Unions have played a significant role in America's workforce for well over a century. But the interests of the unions themselves should never trump the interests of the hardworking men and women these unions represent. Our civil servants and public-

sector employees deserve to have their voices heard and their choices matter -- they deserve worker voting rights.

Robert Alt is President & CEO of The Buckeye Institute in Columbus, Ohio.

p.s. The Buckeye Institute is receiving gifts today as part of "**Giving Tuesday**" and invite you to consider supporting our work, which is transforming public policy at the state level. Check out our **appeal from last year** for explanation of this online phenomenon and background on how it started, then submit a generous donation to **your favorite policy organization** as you are able.

#GIVING TUESDAY

###

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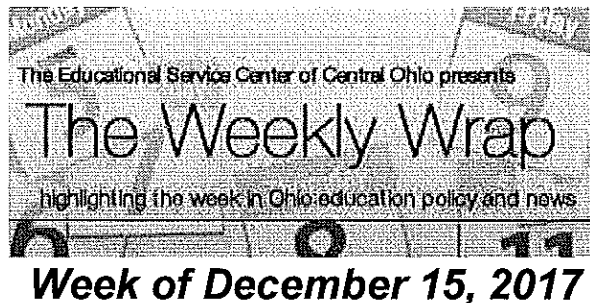
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(NOTE: The next Wrap will be sent the week of January 5th.)

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Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
Early Learning
Postsecondary & Workforce Development
Leadership

OHIO LEGISLATION UPDATE

House Bills

Senate Bills

FEATURED ITEMS

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION RECOMMENDS TESTINGS CUTS, MAY BACK EXTENSION OF NEW DIPLOMA OPTIONS –

At its monthly meeting this week, the State Board of Education voted and approved two resolutions recommending that Ohio eliminate a number of state tests, including the English Language Arts I end-of-course exam, the WorkKeys Job Skills Assessment, and any other assessments developed solely to meet state requirements of teacher evaluations. The Board also discussed graduation requirements for the Class of 2019 and beyond, and appeared to reach consensus on a plan to recommend that the additional graduation options be extended to the Classes of 2019 and 2020, likely with a few changes. The additional graduation options for the Class of 2018 were passed into law as part of the budget bill (HB49). The Board hopes that such a plan would provide time for educators and policymakers to develop a new system of graduation requirements for future classes after 2020.

School Board OKs Testing Cuts, Likely to Back Extension of New Diploma Options to 2020

- Leadership and members of the State Board of Education appeared to reach consensus Tuesday on a plan to recommend the classes of 2019 and 2020 be allowed to use the additional options for high school graduation created for the class of 2018, though a few tweaks are possible. But many on the board expressed hope for ultimately moving to a much different system of determining how students qualify for a diploma

Tests Should Be Cut Back Further, State School Board Tells Ohio Legislature – Cleveland Plain Dealer

- The state school board is asking the Ohio legislature to wipe out three items that add a testing burden to teachers and students -- the high school English I exam WorkKeys tests for some career training students and requirements that some tests be given just to evaluate teachers

Ohio's Test Score Graduation Requirements Could Be Eased for Classes of 2019 and 2020 – Cleveland Plain Dealer

- After debate the last few months, board members now want to extend the same exemptions for the classes of 2019 and 2020 that were added for the class of 2018

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OHIO

Central Ohio Schools

COLUMBUS CITY SCHOOLS

Several Columbus Educators Apply for School Superintendent – Columbus Dispatch

- Columbus City Schools has released the names of 19 applicants to be the district's next superintendent

State Board Committee Approves Waiver for Columbus Africentric School – Hannah

- The State Board of Education's Educators and Student Options Committee Monday unanimously approved a waiver that would allow a Columbus college-prep school to begin hand-picking a portion of its students, as opposed to a random lottery process

DELAWARE CITY SCHOOLS

DCS Board Approves 2018-19 Calendar, Change Orders – Delaware Gazette

- The Delaware City Schools Board of Education approved the 2018-2019 school calendar and a number of change orders at its board meeting Monday night

DUBLIN CITY SCHOOLS

School District Looks at Ballot to Ease Overcrowding – This Week

- As Dublin City School District deals with district-wide capacity challenges, the staff is recommending that the district stays the course in considering a November 2018 ballot issue

GROVEPORT MADISON LOCAL SCHOOLS

Groveport Madison Establishes Athletic Field Maintenance Fund – Columbus Messenger

- Though the new \$750,000 synthetic turf playing surface at Groveport Madison High School's Cruiser Stadium was installed just last summer, the Groveport Madison Board of Education is planning for the day in the future when it will need to be refurbished

HILLIARD CITY SCHOOLS

Feeder Schools Simplify Hilliard's Sixth-Grade Attendance Boundaries – This Week

- New attendance boundaries for Station and Tharp sixth-grade schools are in place for the next school year. The changes are necessary because of the 2018 opening of the new Memorial Middle School adjacent to Bradley High School

MARYSVILLE SCHOOLS

Schools, City Impasse Stalls Cook's Pointe Roadway – Marysville Journal-Tribune

- The city may have to hold off on building a road between Routes 31 and 4 after Marysville Schools expressed distaste for an update to the Cook's Pointe tax increment financing (TIF) district

OLENTANGY LOCAL SCHOOLS

Two Olentangy Principals Resign, Interims Named – Delaware Gazette

- When the calendar turns the page to 2018, the Olentangy Local School District will be without the services of two of its current principal

REYNOLDSBURG CITY SCHOOLS

After Recount, Baker, Barga Win Seats on BOE, Council 5/0 This Week

- A recount of votes cast Nov. 7 in two Reynoldsburg races that were too close to call on election night produced no changes in the outcomes

SOUTH-WESTERN CITY SCHOOLS

District Officials Receive Salary Increase – Columbus Messenger

- At its Dec. 11 meeting, the South-Western City Schools board of education unanimously approved a 2 percent increase in the salaries of Superintendent Dr. Bill Wis and Treasurer Hugh Garside

UPPER ARLINGTON CITY SCHOOLS

= 2Visionary' Leadership Earns Honor for UA's Imhoff – This Week

- Upper Arlington schools Superintendent Paul Imhoff has been named 2018 Superintendent of the Year by the Buckeye Association of School Administrators

WORTHINGTON CITY SCHOOLS

Community Members Helped Outline Facilities Plan – This Week It's Worth It

- Trent Bowers, superintendent of Worthington City Schools, writes that the work of the community-led task force created for the purpose of master facilities planning for Worthington Schools has concluded

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Ohio Department of Education/State Board of Education

Testing, Graduation Debates on Tap for School Board – Hannah

- The State Board of Education will continue discussions next week on whether and how to intercede for class of 2019 students at risk of not graduating on time, and could recommend cuts to state testing after months of debate

School Board Discusses Ways ESSA Plan Could Change Report Card – Hannah

- The State Board of Education's Accountability and Continuous Improvement Committee discussed Monday possible changes to two sections of Ohio's report cards for local schools, one of which could show up on report cards for the current year, the other up for long-term discussions and contingent on federal approval of Ohio's plan for implementing the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

School Board Could Ease Standard Poised to Push Colleges Out of Diploma Program – Hannah

- The State Board of Education appears likely to grant more leniency to providers in the 22+ Adult Diploma Program after hearing last month from the organization that runs programs at a few community colleges about the program's first-year struggles

School Board OKs Testing Cuts, Likely to Back Extension of New Diploma Options to 2020

- Leadership and members of the State Board of Education appeared to reach consensus Tuesday on a plan to recommend the classes of 2019 and 2020 be allowed to use the additional options for high school graduation created for the class of 2018, though a few tweaks are possible. But many on the

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- The state school board is asking the Ohio legislature to wipe out three items that add a testing burden to teachers and students -- the high school English I exam WorkKeys tests for some career training students and requirements that some tests be given just to evaluate teachers

Ohio's Test Score Graduation Requirements Could Be Eased for Classes of 2019 and 2020 – Cleveland Plain Dealer

- After debate the last few months, board members now want to extend the same exemptions for the classes of 2019 and 2020 that were added for the class of 2018

State Report Cards Need to Be Re-Examined, Says State School Board Member Lisa Woods – Cleveland Plain Dealer

- State school board member Lisa Woods wants the state to re-examine and overhaul its report cards for schools and districts, calling them too complicated and not useful for schools or families

State Launches Early Learning Portal – Hannah

- Ohio debuted a new online resource this week for parents and teachers of preschool-age children to help support early learning and literacy development. Most of the materials available at the INFOhio Early Learning portal are free, with a few requiring a "minimal" fee

McKinney-Vento Guidance for Homeless Students Updated – ODE

- The Ohio Department of Education updated McKinney-Vento Guidance for homeless student liaisons to uphold rights and ensure educational stability for these students. The guidance provides clarification that will help districts navigate the McKinney-Vento law. It includes suggestions for district support systems for students who are homeless

Model Policy Can Help Align Local Policies with HB410 Requirements – ODE

- In June, the State Board of Education adopted a model policy for violent, disruptive or inappropriate student behavior, including excessive absences. It stresses prevention strategies and alternatives to suspension or expulsion. Districts can adopt all or parts of the model policy according to their needs. They also may use the model policy when updating their local policies to align with House Bill 410 requirements

Special Education Profile Public Summary – ODE

- 2016-2017 SPECIAL EDUCATION PROFILE (Based on 2015-2016 data)

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Ohio Education & Public Policy

'Tsunami' of Job Disruption Coming, Kasich, Alphabet Chairman Warn – Columbus Dispatch

- Kasich again called for a “complete re-do” of kindergarten through 12th-grade education and higher education, saying both must more closely work with business leaders to align what they teach with the skills students will need to prosper in the jobs of the future

Kasich Urges Workforce Board to Reach Out to Schools on Job-Readiness Skills – Columbus Dispatch

- Kasich on Tuesday urged the board to continue its efforts to bring about the changes needed to ensure students can thrive in a rapidly-changing workplace where technology threatens to wipe out many jobs

Ohio Report Card Reviews Say Make Them Simpler – State Impact Ohio

- Two national education advocacy and research groups say Ohio’s school report cards need to be simplified so that parents can more easily use the information they hold

New State Attendance Law Could Be Trouble for Sick Students – Canton Repository

- Under House Bill 410, which took effect in April, public school students in Ohio cannot miss more than 38 hours (roughly six days) of school in a single month or 65 hours (roughly 10 days) in a year — even if they have a valid doctor’s excuse. If they do miss that much school, they will be labeled excessively absent

Lack of Access to Broadband Affects Personal, Health, Education, Economic Aspects of Life – Hannah

- Five witnesses appeared before the House Finance Committee Tuesday morning on HB378 (R. Smith-Cera), which would create the Ohio Broadband Development Grant Program, appropriating \$50 million a year for two years

House Finishes Work for Year with Action on 16 Bills – Hannah

- House Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville) outlined some of his priorities in the new year, including addressing the opioid epidemic and helping those affected who may not have gotten the attention they need, and congressional redistricting. He said unemployment compensation reform also remains a priority, but they have not moved it as Rep. Kirk Schuring (R-Canton) continues to work on tweaks to his HB382 and listens to concerns from labor and the business community

Senate Passes 'Christmas Tree' Bill – Hannah

- Obhof said he expects a congressional redistricting resolution to be introduced in early January and to be passed by the end of the month with bipartisan support

Educators Slam KRA Mandates at Deregulation Bill Hearing – Hannah

- Several kindergarten teachers and school administrators blasted the state requirement to administer the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA) on Wednesday, telling the Senate Education Committee it's a waste of time and hampers their ability to effectively teach children

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Ohio Schools

Ohio Schools Dish Out Suspensions, Other Discipline at Wildly Different Rates – Cleveland Plain Dealer

- School and school districts in Ohio suspend and discipline students at wildly different rates, a Plain Dealer review of statewide discipline data shows, with some taking action five, ten or even more than 20 times as much as the state average

New State Attendance Law Could Be Trouble for Sick Students – Canton Repository

- Under House Bill 410, which took effect in April, public school students in Ohio cannot miss more than 38 hours (roughly six days) of school in a single month or 65 hours (roughly 10 days) in a year — even if they have a valid doctor's excuse. If they do miss that much school, they will be labeled excessively absent

Cyber Charters Continue to Struggle: A State-by-State Look at Reports of Trouble – EdWeek

- From California to Ohio to Nevada, cyber charter schools often struggle mightily to graduate students and they frequently clash with state regulators over their academic performance and financial management. Nevertheless, the niche sector of K-12 schooling continues to expand across states even in the face of such poor results

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Ohio Postsecondary & Workforce Development

School Board Could Ease Standard Poised to Push Colleges Out of Diploma Program – Hannah

- The State Board of Education appears likely to grant more leniency to providers in the 22+ Adult Diploma Program after hearing last month from the organization that runs programs at a few community colleges about the program's first-year struggles

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Ohio Local Government

Auditor: Local Governments Feeling Greater Fiscal Stress – Columbus Dispatch

- The finances of Ohio's city and county governments are becoming increasingly wobbly, according to a report issued Tuesday by state Auditor Dave Yost

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Ohio Reports

State Teacher Policy Yearbook 2017 – National Council on Teacher Quality

- NCTQ's bi-annual 2017 State Teacher Policy Yearbook grades states on how well their programs and policies raise the quality of the teachers in their schools. The 2017 Yearbook evaluates states against nine policy areas, with this year's edition including, for the first time, information to reflect teacher diversity initiatives, principal evaluation and support systems, and state support for teacher leadership opportunities. For all 50 states and the District of Columbia, NCTQ produces a customized summary that provides state policy strengths and opportunities for improvement
- See the Ohio summary [here](#)

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NATIONAL/WORLD

Federal & US Department of Education

A Commentary by Betsy DeVos: 'Tolerating Low Expectations for Children With Disabilities Must End' – EdWeek Commentary

Federal Government Switches Sides, Joins Argument for Striking Down Mandatory Dues in Janus Case – The 74

- The Trump administration has weighed in against continuing mandatory union dues for public workers, a shift in the federal government's position ahead of upcoming Supreme Court arguments in the much-watched Janus case

Trump Taps Ex-Florida Chief, Lt. Governor for Top K-12 Post under DeVos – EdWeek

- President Donald Trump has tapped Frank Brogan, who served as former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush's lieutenant governor, as assistant secretary of elementary and secondary education, the top post at the Education Department overseeing K-12 policy

FCC Dismantles 'Net Neutrality' Policy, and K-12 Schools Await Impact – EdWeek

- The Federal Communications Commission voted today to dismantle a policy designed to protect "net neutrality," in a dramatic shift that has roiled the public and carries uncertain implications for schools

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Education Policy & Finance

Planning for Progress: States Reflect on Year One Implementation of ESSA – Center on Education Policy

- Based on a fall 2017 survey of officials from 45 state education agencies, this report highlights early state efforts to implement the Every Student Succeeds Act. The report highlights states' views on ESSA's shift in control from the federal government to states and school districts regarding accountability and school improvement activities; stakeholder involvement in state plan development; state capacity to implement ESSA requirements; and the U.S. Department of Education's assistance in implementing ESSA. The report also addresses the impact of the proposed elimination of Title II-A funding, and support among states for a federal private school voucher program using ESSA funds

Many State ESSA Plans Are 'Uncreative, Unambitious,' Analysis Finds – EdWeek

- The two-year-old Every Student Succeeds Act was supposed to free states up to go off in bold, new directions on K-12 policy. So did state plans—all of which have been turned into the U.S. Department of Education—live up to that promise?

Layoffs Will Hurt ESSA Implementation, State Education Leaders Say -- EdWeek

- State education chiefs say in a recently released survey that their departments lack sufficient funding, staffing or expertise to carry out one or more key requirements of the Every Student Succeeds Act

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Teacher Effectiveness

Making Teacher Recertification Meaningful -- EdWeek Special Report

- This special report takes a hard look at recertification, posing questions about how it could be strengthened to support teachers better. The stories include an overview of the diverse provider landscape, perspective pieces by current and former teachers, and profiles of states thinking about how to innovate their license-renewal systems

State Teacher Policy Yearbook 2017 -- National Council on Teacher Quality

- NCTQ's bi-annual 2017 State Teacher Policy Yearbook grades states on how well their programs and policies raise the quality of the teachers in their schools. The 2017 Yearbook evaluates states against nine policy areas, with this year's edition including, for the first time, information to reflect teacher diversity initiatives, principal evaluation and support systems, and state support for teacher leadership opportunities. For all 50 states and the District of Columbia, NCTQ produces a customized summary that provides state policy strengths and opportunities for improvement

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Digital Convergence

AI Accelerates in K12 -- District Administration

- Until recently, the quality of classroom instruction relied almost entirely on a teacher's resourcefulness, motivation and intelligence. Soon, it will also depend on artificial intelligence—with lessons based more on what students need to learn than on traditional methods of instruction

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Tech Infrastructure

Why, and How, Warranties Should Guide EdTech Purchasing -- eSchool News

- Determining the best bulk edtech purchases for long-term school use should start with warranties

40 Most Popular Ed-Tech Tools in K-12 Identified in New Analysis – EdWeek

- The study—conducted by Lea(r)n Inc., a company that operates a management system that organizes, streamlines, and analyzes ed-tech utilization—found that the top three tech products accessed in schools via Google's Chrome browser are Google Docs, YouTube, and Google Drive

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Charter Schools

Cyber Charters Continue to Struggle: A State-by-State Look at Reports of Trouble – EdWeek

- From California to Ohio to Nevada, cyber charter schools often struggle mightily to graduate students and they frequently clash with state regulators over their academic performance and financial management. Nevertheless, the niche sector of K-12 schooling continues to expand across states even in the face of such poor results

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School Improvement

State Role in Incubating School Improvement Networks – NASBE

- States, districts, and schools across the country are forming “networked improvement communities” to address problems of practice, make changes based on data, and make connections across schools. These networks build capacity to improve schools, ensure effective change processes are in place, and make it possible to bring innovations to scale. A new NASBE policy update explores how statewide networked improvement communities work and how state boards of education can nurture them

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Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

Study: Black, Latino Preservice Teachers Demonstrate More Multicultural Awareness – Education Dive

- Districts looking to hire teachers who have the skills to work with an increasingly diverse student population might want to begin recruiting young people working in summer camps, after-school programs and other

community organizations that serve black, Latino and other minority children, a new study published in the Journal of Teacher Education suggests

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Early Learning

Does Preschool Pay Off? Tulsa Says Yes – NPR

- In a new report published in the Journal of Policy Analysis and Management today, researchers were able to show that Tulsa's pre-K program has significant, positive effects on students' outcomes and well-being through middle school

Primetime for Coaching: Improving Instructional Coaching in Early Childhood Education – Bellwether Education Partners

- The report seeks to help policymakers and practitioners alike make informed decisions about coaching programs and policies. This report dives deep into the research, policies, and practices around coaching in early childhood today, and uncovers successes, challenges, and opportunities for improvement. Coaching is still evolving, and ECE practitioners and policymakers should understand different trends, goals, and frameworks for coaching so they can make informed choices

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Postsecondary & Workforce Development

Building Cities by Degrees – MDRC

- This case study examines the efforts of six of the top cities in the competition (Akron; Columbia, South Carolina; Omaha, Nebraska; Orlando, Florida; Portland, Oregon; and Richmond, Virginia) in an effort to build a set of hypotheses around the activities that may have helped these cities increase degree attainment. In examining the efforts of multiple institutions to raise graduation rates within their city, this study departs from higher education research that tends to focus on individual colleges

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Leadership

Logic Models for Selecting, Designing, and Implementing Evidence-Based School Leadership Interventions – Wallace Foundation/RAND

- This companion guide to a review of school leadership activities that have the evidence to qualify them for funding under the Every Student Succeeds Act walks users through how to create logic models mandated by the law

School Leadership Interventions Under the Every Student Succeeds Act: Evidence Review, Updated and Expanded – Wallace Foundation/RAND

- This RAND analysis offers guidance to states and districts on how they can choose to use the Every Student Succeeds Act to help achieve their school improvement goals by supporting principals and other school leaders

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Ohio Legislation Update

(Recent bill action in RED. Signed into law by Governor in GREEN.)

HOUSE

HB3 DATAOHIO BOARD CREATION (Rep. Mike Duffey, Rep. Christina Hagan) To create the DataOhio Board, to specify requirements for posting public records online, to require the Auditor of State to adopt rules regarding a uniform accounting system for public offices, to establish an online catalog of public data at data.Ohio.gov, to establish the Local Government Information Exchange Grant Program, and to make appropriations

STATUS: House Finance Committee – Reported out

HB8 PUBLIC RECORDS-MINORS (Rep. Steve Hambley, Rep. Jeffrey Rezabek) To exempt from the Public Records Law certain information concerning a minor that is included in a record related to a traffic accident involving a school vehicle in which the minor was an occupant at the time of the accident

STATUS: (Passed by House) Senate Local Government, Public Safety & Veterans Affairs Committee – Reported out

HB14AUTOMATIC VOTER REGISTRATION (Rep. Kathleen Clyde) To require that eligible persons in certain government and school databases be automatically registered to vote or have their registrations updated automatically unless those persons decline and to expand how a voter may register or update their registration through the online voter registration system

STATUS: House Government Accountability & Oversight Committee

HB21COMMUNITY SCHOOL ENROLLMENT VERIFICATION (Rep. Steve Hambley) Regarding verification of community school enrollments
STATUS: Passed by House, Vote 94-0

HB37SCHOOL SAFETY-STRUCTURES (Rep. Steve Arndt) To require the Ohio School Facilities Commission to establish a program assisting school districts in purchasing technology and making physical alterations to improve technology infrastructure and school safety and security
STATUS: House Education & Career Readiness Committee – Substitute bill accepted

HB40GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE DATABASE (Rep. Jonathan Dever, Rep. Dave Greenspan) To require the Treasurer of State to establish the Ohio State Government Expenditure Database
Status: House State & Local Government Committee

HB47STUDENTS IN MILITARY (Rep. John Boccieri) To enact the "Students to Soldiers Support Act (S3A)" regarding the participation of students who are serving in the uniformed services in extracurricular activities at public and nonpublic schools and public and private colleges
STATUS: House Education & Career Readiness Committee

HB49OPERATING BUDGET (Rep. Ryan Smith) Creates FY 2018-2019 main operating budget
STATUS: (Passed by House) (Passed by Senate) Signed by Governor – Effective July 1, 2017; House has voted to override several vetoes; Senate has voted to override several vetoes

HB51DEPARTMENT REVIEW SCHEDULE (Rep. Keith Faber) To require standing committees of the General Assembly to establish a schedule for the periodic review and sunset of state departments that are currently in the Governor's cabinet, and to require that Auditor of State performance audits be scheduled to coincide with the periodic review
STATUS: House State & Local Government Committee – Reported out as amended

HB53PUBLIC EMPLOYEES-MEMBER DUES (Rep. John Becker) To remove any requirement under the Public Employees Collective Bargaining Law that public employees join or pay dues to any employee organization, to prohibit public employers from requiring public employees to join or pay dues to any employee organization, to prohibit an employee organization from being required to represent public employees who are not members of the employee organization, and to make an appropriation
STATUS: House Finance Committee

HB58CURSIVE HANDWRITING INSTRUCTION (Rep. Andrew Brenner, Rep. Marilyn Slaby) To require instruction in cursive handwriting
STATUS: Higher Education & Workforce Development Committee – Reported out

HB66TENURED TEACHING REQUIREMENTS (Rep. Ron Young) To require permanently tenured state university or college faculty members to teach at least three credit hours of undergraduate courses per semester
STATUS: Passed by House, Vote 86-8

HB69LEVY REVENUE REIMBURSEMENT (Rep. Bob Cupp) To require reimbursement of certain township fire and emergency medical service levy revenue forgone because of the creation of a municipal tax increment financing district
STATUS: (Passed by House) Passed by Senate, Vote 32-0; House concurs, Vote 85-7

HB74INCREASE COLLEGE TAX DEDUCTION (Rep. Stephen Huffman, Rep. Theresa Gavarone) To increase the maximum income tax deduction for contributions to the state's 529 college savings program from \$2,000 to \$3,000 per beneficiary per year
STATUS: House Ways & Means Committee

HB77SICK-CHILD CARE LICENSURE (Rep. Wes Retherford) To provide for the licensure of sick-child care centers
STATUS: House Economic Development, Commerce & Labor Committee

HB80SCHOOL FOOD-SUMMER INTERVENTION (Rep. Sarah LaTourette, Rep. Kent Smith) To require school districts to allow approved summer food service program sponsors to use school facilities to provide food service for summer intervention services under certain conditions
STATUS: (Passed by House) Senate Government Oversight & Reform Committee

HB87COMMUNITY SCHOOL PUBLIC MONEYS (Rep. Kristina Roegner) Regarding public moneys returned to the state as a result of a finding for recovery issued pursuant to an audit of a community school
STATUS: House Government Accountability & Oversight Committee – Bill amended

HB89AUGUST SALES TAX HOLIDAY (Rep. John Patterson, Rep. Brigid Kelly) To provide for a three-day sales tax "holiday" in August 2017 during which sales of clothing and school supplies are exempt from sales and use taxes
STATUS: House Ways & Means Committee

HB98CAREER INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS (Rep. Mike Duffey, Rep. Kristin Boggs) Regarding the presentation of career information to students

STATUS: (Passed by House) Referred to Senate Education Committee

HB102 SCHOOL FUNDING REFORM (Rep. Andrew Brenner) To replace locally levied school district property taxes with a statewide property tax and require recipients of certain tax exemptions to reimburse the state for such levy revenue lost due to those exemptions; to increase the state sales and use tax rates and allocate additional revenue to state education purposes; to repeal school district income taxes; to require the Treasurer of State to issue general obligation bonds to refund certain school district debt obligations; to create a new system of funding schools where the state pays a specified amount per student that each student may use to attend the public or chartered nonpublic school of the student's choice, without the requirement of a local contribution; to eliminate the School Facilities Commission; to eliminate the Educational Choice Scholarship Pilot Program, Pilot Project Scholarship Program, Autism Scholarship Program, and Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarship Program; to eliminate interdistrict open enrollment; to require educational service centers to transport students on a countywide basis; and to permit school districts to enter into a memoranda of understanding for one district to manage another

STATUS: House Finance Committee

HB103 FISCAL EMERGENCY PROVISIONS (Rep. William Reineke) To modify the composition and powers of the financial planning and supervision commission of a political subdivision that is in a state of fiscal emergency and to clarify the duties of that political subdivision

STATUS: (Passed by House) (Passed by Senate) Signed by Governor

HB108 INFORMED STUDENT DOCUMENT ACT (Rep. Christina Hagan, Rep. Robert McColley) To require one-half unit of financial literacy in the high school curriculum, to require the Chancellor of Higher Education to prepare an informed student document for each institution of higher education, to require the State Board of Education to include information on the informed student document in the standards and model curricula it creates for financial literacy and entrepreneurship, and to entitle the act the "Informed Student Document Act"

STATUS: House Education & Career Readiness Committee – Bill amended

HB110 COLLEGE CREDIT APPRENTICESHIPS (Rep. Christina Hagan, Rep. Bill Dean) To create a subprogram of the College Credit Plus Program that permits students to participate in certified apprenticeship programs

STATUS: House Higher Education & Workforce Development Committee

HB118 TAX COMPLAINT DISMISSAL (Rep. Derek Merrin) To expressly prohibit the dismissal of a property tax complaint for failure to correctly identify the property owner

STATUS: (Passed by House) Passed by Senate, Vote 32-0

HB124 VOCATIONAL SCHOOL TAX LEVY (Rep. Andrew Brenner, Rep. Rick Carfagna) To authorize a joint vocational school district to submit the question of a renewal tax levy to voters who did not have an opportunity to vote on the levy at an election held in November of 2015 because the levy was only placed on the ballot in one of several counties in which the district has territory
STATUS: Signed by Governor – Effective immediately

HB129 SCHOOL EXTERNSHIPS-GOVERNOR (Rep. Kent Smith, Rep. Brigid Kelly) To require the Governor to complete a forty-hour externship consisting of on-site work experience in city, local, and exempted village school districts in the 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 school years
STATUS: House State & Local Government Committee

HB134 SCHOOL COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT GRANTS (Rep. Steve Hambley, Rep. Darrell Kick) To allow community improvements board grants to a school district to be spent for permanent improvements outside the county so long as the improvements are within the school district
STATUS: House State & Local Government Committee – Reported out as amended

HB163 PREVAILING WAGE PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS (Rep. Kristina Roegner, Rep. Craig Riedel) To allow political subdivisions, special districts, and state institutions of higher education to elect to apply the Prevailing Wage Law to public improvement projects
STATUS: House Economic Development, Commerce & Labor Committee

HB166 WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM REVISIONS (Rep. William Reineke, Rep. Bob Cupp) To revise the laws governing the state's workforce development system, programs that may be offered by primary and secondary schools, certificates of qualification for employment, and the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Agency, and to designate the first week of May as In-Demand Jobs Week
STATUS: House Higher Education & Workforce Development Committee – Bill amended

HB170 COMPUTER SCIENCE EDUCATION (Rep. Rick Carfagna, Rep. Mike Duffey) With regard to academic content standards and curriculum requirements for computer science; to revise educator qualifications regarding computer science; and to authorize public schools to establish computer science and technology funds
STATUS: (Passed by House) Passed by Senate, Vote 31-0; House concurs, Vote 85-8

HB176 SCHOOL ASSESSMENTS (Rep. Andrew Thompson) With regard to state achievement assessments, statewide academic content standards and model curricula, and teacher and administrator evaluations

STATUS: House Education & Career Readiness Committee – Bill amended

HB179 IMMIGRATION LAW COMPLIANCE (Rep. Candice Keller) To require state and local authorities to cooperate with the federal government in the enforcement of immigration laws, to prohibit a local government that fails to do so from receiving certain state funds, to provide for the removal of officers of a local government that fails to do so, and to declare an emergency

STATUS: House Government Accountability & Oversight Committee

HB181 ACADEMIC ASSESSMENT STANDARDS (Rep. Ron Hood, Rep. Tom Brinkman) With regard to the state academic content standards and primary and secondary education assessments

STATUS: House Education & Career Readiness Committee

HB186 COLLEGE TAX DEDUCTION (Rep. John Rogers, Rep. Gary Scherer) To enact the "Blair Deduction" to allow an individual obtaining a postsecondary degree or credential from an eligible educational institution to claim an income tax deduction for qualified higher education expenses

STATUS: House Ways & Means Committee

HB200 OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM CREATION (Koehler, K) - To eliminate the Educational Choice Scholarship Pilot Program and Pilot Project Scholarship Program and to create the Opportunity Scholarship Program

STATUS: House Education & Career Readiness Committee – Bill amended

HB203 YOUTH SUMMER JOBS INITIATIVE (Barnes, Jr., J) - To require the Director of Development Services to establish a youth summer jobs pledging initiative to increase access to summer employment opportunities for high school and college youth

STATUS: House Higher Education & Workforce Development Committee

HB217 COLLEGE APPLICATIONS-DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS (Rep. Andrew Brenner) To prohibit institutions of higher education from requiring students to disclose disciplinary actions on their applications for admission

STATUS: House Higher Education & Workforce Development Committee

HB220 NONPUBLIC SCHOOL FUNDS (Rep. David Leland) With regard to the use of funds by community schools and nonpublic schools

STATUS: House Education & Career Readiness Committee

HB224 RE-SERVING SCHOOL LUNCH ITEMS (Rep. Catherine Ingram) To permit districts and schools to re-serve time- and temperature-controlled food items to students if items are unused and returned unopened, undamaged, and in the original packaging

STATUS: House Education & Career Readiness Committee

HB227 LICENSE PLATE-KENSTON LOCAL SCHOOLS (Rep. Sarah LaTourette)
To create the "Kenston Local Schools" license plate
STATUS: House Transportation & Public Safety Committee – Reported out as amended

HB235 EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT PROCEDURE (Rep. Theresa Gavarone) Regarding procedures for approval or disapproval of the state education plan for the federal Every Student Succeeds Act
STATUS: (Passed by House) Senate Education Committee

HB237 MULTICOUNTY LOCAL ELECTIONS (Rep. Dorothy Pelanda) To require a political subdivision with territory in more than one county that places an issue on the ballot to notify the board of elections of every county in which the political subdivision has territory, to require the Secretary of State to establish a database to facilitate communication between the boards of elections and the Secretary concerning local elections, and to make an appropriation
STATUS: House Government Accountability & Oversight Committee

HB242 SCHOOL RETIREMENT-COST OF LIVING (Rep. Rick Carfagna) Regarding School Employees Retirement System annual cost-of-living adjustments
STATUS: House Aging & Long Term Care Committee – Substitute bill accepted

HB246 DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY CLASSROOMS (Rep. John Bocchieri, Rep. Jeffrey Rezabek) To require the Ohio School Facilities Commission to provide funding to certain county boards of developmental disabilities to assist in the acquisition of classroom facilities
STATUS: House Education & Career Readiness Committee – Substitute bill accepted

HB262 INDEPENDENT BUDGET PROCESS (Rep. James Butler, Jr., Rep. Mark Romanchuk) To provide for the preparation of a state biennial budget independent of that submitted by the Governor and to authorize the Legislative Service Commission, upon the request of the Speaker of the House of Representatives or the President of the Senate, to arrange for an independent actuarial review of a proposed bill, specified analyses of economic policy initiatives and state benchmarking data, and a study of the state's long-range financial outlook
STATUS: House Government Accountability & Oversight Committee

HB298 PUBLIC EMPLOYEE SICK DAYS (Rep. Derek Merrin) To make changes with respect to the number of sick days provided to public employees
STATUS: House State & Local Government Committee

HB312 LOCAL GOVERNMENT CREDIT CARDS (Rep. Kirk Schuring, Rep. Dave Greenspan) Regarding use of credit cards and debit cards by political subdivisions

STATUS: (Passed by House) Referred to Senate Government Oversight & Reform Committee

HB318 SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER DEFINITION (Rep. John Patterson, Rep. Sarah LaTourette) To define the necessary qualifications and responsibilities of school resource officers

STATUS: House Education & Career Readiness Committee

HB322 SCHOOL EMERGENCY PLANS (Rep. Adam Miller, Rep. Bernadine Kent) To revise the law regarding emergency management plans and school safety drills; to require each educational service center to employ an emergency response planner; to make an appropriation; and to declare an emergency

STATUS: House Finance Committee

HB337 TEXTBOOK SALES TAX EXEMPTION (Rep. Mike Duffey) To exempt from sales and use tax textbooks purchased by post-secondary students

STATUS: House Ways & Means Committee

HB338 BUS DRIVER MEDICAL EXAMS (Rep. Tim Ginter) Regarding medical examinations for school bus drivers

STATUS: House Education & Career Readiness Committee – Reported out

HB342 LOCAL TAX ISSUES-ELECTION DATES (Rep. Derek Merrin) To permit local tax-related proposals to appear only on general and primary election ballots and not on an August special election ballot and to modify the information conveyed in election notices and ballot language for property tax levies

STATUS: House Government Accountability & Oversight Committee

HB343 PROPERTY VALUE CONTEST-RESOLUTIONS (Rep. Derek Merrin) To require local governments that contest property values to formally pass an authorizing resolution for each contest and to notify property owners

STATUS: House Ways & Means Committee – Bill amended

HB360 ANTI-BULLYING AND HAZING (Rep. Dave Greenspan) To enact the "Ohio Anti-Bullying and Hazing Act" with regard to school discipline and bullying and hazing policies at public schools and public colleges

STATUS: House Education & Career Readiness Committee – Substitute bill accepted

HB361 PROPERTY TAX COMPLAINTS TIMEFRAME (Rep. Dave Greenspan) To increase the time within which boards of revision must decide property tax complaints

STATUS: House Government Accountability & Oversight Committee – Bill amended

HB363 CAMPUS FREE SPEECH (Rep. Rick Carfagna, Rep. Andrew Brenner) To enact the "Campus Free Speech Act" with respect to the freedom of speech and assembly at state institutions of higher education and the charging and allocation of student activity fees

STATUS: House Higher Education & Workforce Development Committee

HB369 PER PUPIL FUNDING GUARANTEE (Rep. Martin Sweeney) To prescribe a per pupil funding guarantee for certain school districts and to make an appropriation

STATUS: House Finance Committee

HB377 CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE EDUCATION (Rep. Christina Hagan, Rep. Dan Ramos) With respect to age-appropriate student instruction in child sexual abuse and sexual violence prevention and in-service staff training in child sexual abuse prevention

STATUS: House Education & Career Readiness Committee

HB378 OHIO BROADBAND DEVELOPMENT (Rep. Ryan Smith, Rep. Jack Cera) To create the Ohio Broadband Development Grant Program and to make an appropriation

STATUS: House Finance Committee

HB383 CHILD CARE HEALTH & SAFETY RISKS (Rep. Rick Carfagna) Regarding parental notice of serious risks to the health or safety of children receiving child care

STATUS: House Community & Family Advancement Committee

HB396 STEM DEGREE LOAN REPAYMENT (Rep. John Patterson, Rep. Rick Carfagna) To create the STEM Degree Loan Repayment Program and to make an appropriation

STATUS: House Finance Committee

HB399 HEALTH INSURANCE SAVINGS INCENTIVES (Rep. Michael Henne, Rep. James Butler, Jr.) To enact the Ohio Right to Shop Act to require health insurers to establish shared savings incentive programs for enrollees

STATUS: Introduced

HB413 PERS ADJUSTMENT-DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES EMPLOYEES (Rep. Gary Scherer) Regarding Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) annual cost-of-living adjustments granted to allowance and benefit recipients and PERS service credit for services as a nonteaching school employee of a county board of developmental disabilities

STATUS: House Aging & Long Term Care Committee

HB418 SCHOOL RECORDS TRANSFER (Rep. Catherine Ingram) To require a public or chartered nonpublic school to transmit a student's records within five business days when the student transfers to another school

STATUS: House Education & Career Readiness Committee

HB426 SCHOOL SEXUAL CONDUCT (Rep. Christina Hagan) To prohibit an employee of a school or institution of higher education who is not in a position of authority from engaging in sexual conduct with certain students

STATUS: House Criminal Justice Committee

HB428 STUDENT RELIGIOUS LIBERTIES ACT (Rep. Tim Ginter, Rep. Sarah LaTourette) Regarding student religious expression and to entitle the act the "Ohio Student Religious Liberties Act of 2018"

STATUS: House Education & Career Readiness Committee

HB432 STUDENT LOAN OMBUDSMAN & LICENSURE (Rep. Kristin Boggs, Rep. Brigid Kelly) To require student loan servicers to be licensed by the Division of Financial Institutions and to create the position of student loan ombudsperson in the Division of Financial Institutions to provide assistance to student loan borrowers

STATUS: Introduced

HB438 ESC ANNEXATION (Rep. Steve Hambley, Rep. Darrell Kick) To permit the addition of appointed members to educational service center boards and to permit a local school district to sever its territory from one educational service center and annex that territory to an adjacent service center under specified conditions

STATUS: Introduced

HB442 SCHOOL ATHLETICS-F1 VISA (Rep. Niraj Antani) To authorize any student from a country or province outside the United States who attends an elementary or secondary school in Ohio and holds an F-1 visa to participate in interscholastic athletics at that school on the same basis as Ohio residents

STATUS: Introduced

HB443 MENTAL HEALTH EDUCATION (Rep. Martin Sweeney) To require school district boards of education to incorporate mental health instruction into their health education curricula

STATUS: Introduced

HB449 CHARTER SCHOOL SPONSOR RATINGS-UNIVERSITIES (Rep. John Rogers, Rep. John Patterson) To require the Department of Education to attribute any community school sponsor ratings an entity received during its relationship with a state university board of trustees to that entity even if it no longer has a relationship with the university

STATUS: Introduced

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SENATE

SB3 WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT (Sen. Bill Beagle, Sen. Troy Balderson) To designate the first week of May as In-Demand Jobs Week

STATUS: (Passed by Senate) Passed by House, Vote 93-1; Senate concurs, Vote 32-0

SB5 INCREASING INCOME TAX DEDUCTIONS (Sen. Jay Hottinger, Sen. John Eklund) To increase the maximum income tax deduction for contributions to college savings accounts and disability expense savings accounts to \$10,000 annually for each beneficiary, to create the Joint Committee on Ohio College Affordability, and to declare an emergency

STATUS: Passed by Senate, Vote 33-0; Emergency clause, Vote 32-1

SB8 SCHOOL INFRASTRUCTURE AND TECHNOLOGY (Sen. Randy Gardner, Sen. Louis Terhar) To require the Ohio School Facilities Commission to establish a program assisting school districts in purchasing technology and making physical alterations to improve technology infrastructure and school safety and security

STATUS: (Passed by Senate) (Passed by House) Conference Committee – Reported out; Senate accepts report, Vote 32-0; House accepts report, Vote 88-4

SB9 AUGUST TAX HOLIDAY (Sen. Kevin Bacon) To provide for a three-day sales tax "holiday" in August 2017 during which sales of clothing and school supplies are exempt from sales and use taxes

STATUS: Signed by Governor – Effective immediately

SB10 PRIMARY ELECTION REQUIREMENTS (Sen. Frank LaRose) To expand the circumstances under which a board of elections or the secretary of state is not required to hold a primary election

STATUS: Passed by Senate, Vote 32-0

SB15 COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY REQUIREMENTS (Sen. Charleta Tavares) To require community colleges, state community colleges, technical colleges, and university branches to comply with minority business enterprise set-aside requirements, and to require the Director of Administrative Services to establish guidelines for these entities, and the Northeast Ohio Medical University, to establish procurement goals for contracting with EDGE business enterprises

STATUS: Senate Government Oversight & Reform Committee

SB17 LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUND ALLOCATION (Sen. Charleta Tavares) To increase monthly allocations to the Local Government Fund from 1.66% to 3.68% of the total tax revenue credited to the General Revenue Fund each month

STATUS: Senate Finance Committee

SB34 SCHOOL YEARS (Sen. Gayle Manning) To generally require public and chartered nonpublic schools to open for instruction after Labor Day

STATUS: Senate Education Committee

SB36AGRICULTURAL COMPUTATION (Sen. Cliff Hite) To require that the computation of the capitalization rate for the purposes of determining CAUV of agricultural land be computed using a method that excludes appreciation and equity buildup and to stipulate that CAUV land used for a conservation practice or enrolled in a federal land retirement or conservation program for at least three years must be valued at the lowest of the values assigned on the basis of soil type
STATUS: Passed by Senate, Vote 33-0

SB39COMMUNITY SCHOOL OPERATION (Sen. Joe Schiavoni) Regarding community school operator contracts, the operation of Internet- and computer-based community schools, and performance metrics for blended learning schools
STATUS: Senate Education Committee

SB54SUMMER FOOD PROGRAMS (Sen. Edna Brown, Sen. Peggy Lehner) To require school districts to allow approved summer food service program sponsors to use school facilities to provide food service for summer intervention services under certain conditions
STATUS: Senate Government Oversight & Reform Committee

SB72PREVAILING WAGE LAW (Sen. Matt Huffman) To allow political subdivisions, special districts, and state institutions of higher education to elect to apply the Prevailing Wage Law to public improvement projects
STATUS: Senate Finance Committee

SB79STATE DEPARTMENTAL REVIEW SCHEDULE (Sen. Kris Jordan) To require standing committees of the General Assembly to establish a schedule for the periodic review and sunset of state departments that are currently in the Governor's cabinet, and to require that Auditor of State performance audits be scheduled to coincide with the periodic review
STATUS: Passed by Senate, Vote 24-9

SB82SCHOOL ABSENCES-PARENTAL NOTIFICATION (Sen. Sandra Williams, Sen. Peggy Lehner) To require a public school to place a telephone call within one hour of the start of the school day to a parent whose child is absent without legitimate excuse
STATUS: Senate Education Committee

SB85OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM CREATION (Sen. Matt Huffman) To eliminate the Educational Choice Scholarship Pilot Program and Pilot Project Scholarship Program and to create the Opportunity Scholarship Program
STATUS: Senate Education Committee

SB88SUBDIVISION COMMISSIONS-FISCAL EMERGENCY (Sen. Louis Terhar) To modify the composition and powers of the financial planning and supervision

commission of a political subdivision that is in a state of fiscal emergency and to clarify the duties of that political subdivision

STATUS: Passed by Senate, Vote 33-0

SB97 REGIONAL STUDY COMMITTEE CREATION (Sen. Frank LaRose, Sen. Kenny Yuko) To establish a Regional Economic Development Alliance Study Committee to study the benefits and challenges involved in creating regional economic development alliances

STATUS: Senate Government Oversight & Reform Committee

SB104 PROHIBIT SECLUSION USE-SCHOOLS (Sen. Charleta Tavares) To prohibit the use of seclusion on students in public schools

STATUS: Senate Education Committee

SB105 MONTH DESIGNATION-OHIO PRINCIPALS (Sen. Charleta Tavares) To designate the month of October as "Ohio Principals Month"

STATUS: Senate Education Committee – Reported out

SB111 SCHOOL ZONE SIGN LIGHTS (Sen. Charleta Tavares) To require school zones to be indicated by signs equipped with flashing or other lights or that indicate the times during which the restrictive speed limit is enforced, and to make an appropriation

STATUS: Senate Government Oversight & Reform Committee

SB123 PROPERTY TAX COMPLAINT PROCESS (Sen. William Coley) To limit the right to initiate most types of property tax complaints to the property owner and the county recorder of the county in which the property is located

STATUS: Senate Ways & Means Committee

SB124 COLLEGE OPPORTUNITY GRANTS (Sen. Sandra Williams) To qualify students in noncredit community college and career and technical programs for Ohio College Opportunity Grants and to require the awarding of academic credit for community colleges' career certification programs

STATUS: Senate Finance Higher Education Subcommittee

SB133 STUDENT DISCIPLINE-VIOLENT BEHAVIOR (Sen. Frank LaRose) To require the Education Management Information System to include information regarding persons at whom a student's violent behavior that resulted in discipline was directed and to require the Department of Education to submit a one-time report to the General Assembly regarding that information

STATUS: Senate Education Committee

SB140 PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP GRANTS (Sen. Joe Schiavoni) To create the Public-Private Partnership Grant Program for fiscal years 2018 and 2019 to develop, enhance, and promote educational programs to address regional workforce needs; to create the Sector Partnership Grant Program for fiscal years 2018 and

2019 to identify and provide grants to industry partnerships; to support programs that improve access to workforce training opportunities for students; to support economic development and revitalization programs; and to make an appropriation
STATUS: Senate Finance Committee

SB149 ELECTION POLLING PLACES-SCHOOLS (Sen. Frank LaRose) Regarding the use of a school district building as a polling place for elections
STATUS: Senate Government Oversight & Reform Committee

SB151 SCHOOL EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT ADJUSTMENTS (Sen. Cliff Hite) To permit, rather than require, the School Employees Retirement System to grant annual cost-of-living adjustments to retirement, disability, and survivor benefit recipients and to reduce the maximum amount of the adjustment
STATUS: Senate Insurance & Financial Institutions Committee

SB172 HUNGER-FREE STUDENTS RIGHTS (Sen. Kenny Yuko) To establish the Hunger-Free Students' Bill of Rights Act to require schools to provide certain services to students who are eligible for free or reduced price meals
STATUS: Senate Education Committee

SB175 RECOVERED FUNDS-SCHOOL AUDIT (Sen. Joe Schiavoni) Regarding public moneys returned to the state as a result of a finding for recovery issued pursuant to an audit of a community school
STATUS: Senate Government Oversight & Reform Committee

SB191 ESTABLISH SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAMS (Sen. Joe Schiavoni) To establish the Breakfast After The Bell Program for public schools
STATUS: Senate Education Committee

SB196 AGGRAVATED BULLYING-OFFENSE CREATION (Sen. Sandra Williams, Sen. Edna Brown) To create the offense of aggravated bullying, a third-degree misdemeanor
STATUS: Senate Judiciary Committee

SB197 SCHOOL DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES (Sen. Sandra Williams, Sen. Edna Brown) To require a tiered disciplinary procedure for harassment, intimidation, or bullying in school; to require annual student instruction about preventing such acts; and to create the offense of aggravated bullying as a third-degree misdemeanor
STATUS: Senate Education Committee

SB199 OHIO BROADBAND DEVELOPMENT GRANTS (Sen. Joe Schiavoni, Sen. Cliff Hite) To create the Ohio Broadband Development Grant Program and to make an appropriation
STATUS: Introduced

SB203 MUNICIPAL TAX RULE REINSTATEMENT (Sen. Matt Dolan) To reinstate the municipal income tax "throw-back rule" used in apportioning business income among municipalities
STATUS: Introduced

SB209 PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS-TIF (Sen. William Coley, Sen. John Eklund) To modify the conditions that determine the relative priority of property tax exemptions when a parcel subject to a tax increment financing arrangement concurrently qualifies for another exemption
STATUS: Senate Ways & Means Committee

SB213 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUNDING PLAN (Sen. Joe Schiavoni) To enhance economic and employment opportunities and improve local infrastructure in Ohio by providing additional assistance to workforce development and employment programs; establishing a revolving loan program for small businesses seeking to expand operations; extending job tax credits to smaller businesses; enabling expanded participation in public sector contracting by smaller companies; enhancing support for childcare centers; funding additional local infrastructure and public transit; authorizing tax incentives for hiring military veterans, for donating money to local programs assisting distressed communities, or for improving distressed property; exempting the homes of disabled veterans from property taxation; terminating the income tax deduction and reduced tax rate for business income; and to make an appropriation
STATUS: Senate Finance Committee

SB216 PUBLIC SCHOOL DEREGULATION ACT (Sen. Matt Huffman) To enact the "Ohio Public School Deregulation Act" regarding the administration of preschool and primary and secondary education programs
STATUS: Senate Education Committee

SB225 OHIO BROADBAND DEVELOPMENT GRANTS (Sen. Joe Schiavoni, Sen. John Eklund) To create the Ohio Broadband Development Grant Program and to make an appropriation
STATUS: Senate Finance Committee

SB226 PERMANENT SALES TAX HOLIDAY (Sen. Kevin Bacon) To provide for a permanent three-day sales tax "holiday" each August during which sales of clothing and school supplies are exempt from sales and use tax
STATUS: Senate Ways & Means Committee

SB239 REGIONAL COUNCILS OF GOVERNMENTS (Sen. Matt Dolan) To modify the law concerning regional councils of governments
STATUS: Introduced


SB240 REGARDING TEACHER EVALUATIONS (Sen. Peggy Lehner) With regard to teacher evaluations

STATUS: Introduced

SB241 ACCREDITED NONPUBLIC SCHOOL CATEGORY (Sen. Louis Terhar, Sen. Cecil Thomas) To establish a category of nonpublic schools called "accredited nonpublic schools" and to prescribe requirements and exemptions for such schools
STATUS: Introduced

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Joe Weitz 
Communications & Policy Coordinator
Educational Service Center of Central Ohio
2080 Citygate Drive | Columbus, OH 43219
o: 614.753.4646 | c: 513.405.3839
www.escco.org

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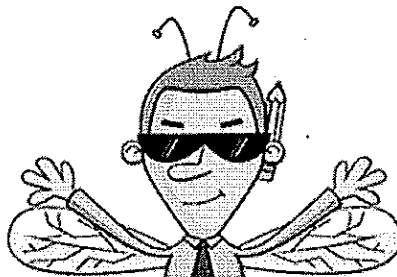
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THE EDUCATION GADFLY WEEKLY

VOLUME 18 NUMBER 2 | JANUARY 10, 2018

WHY DISPARATE IMPACT THEORY IS A BAD FIT FOR SCHOOL DISCIPLINE

By Michael J. Petrilli

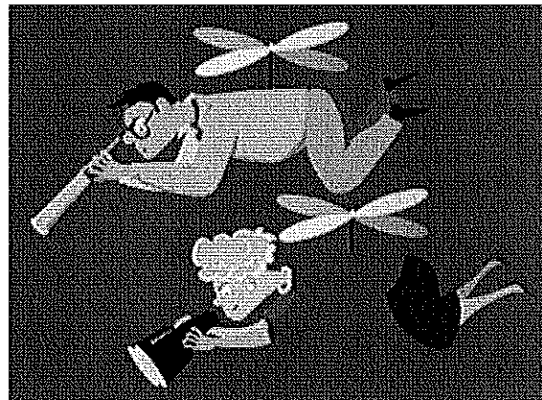
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Frightening the children

By Robert Pondiscio



How Ohio's walk back of graduation requirements is like overprotective parenting

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By Jamie Davies O'Leary

OPINION

Why disparate impact theory is a bad fit for school discipline

By Michael J. Petrilli

In 2014, the Obama Administration used a "Dear Colleague" letter to apply disparate impact theory to school discipline, warning that schools could be subject to a civil rights investigation if their data showed significant racial disparities in the use of suspensions or expulsions, and could be found guilty of violating federal law even if they had race-neutral discipline policies that were being applied even-handedly. This application incorrectly assumes that any racial disparity in discipline reflects discrimination rather than differences in student behavior, and it limits schools'

discipline options. This potentially leads to greater disorder and violence and harms well-behaved students of color the most. [Read more.](#)

Frightening the children

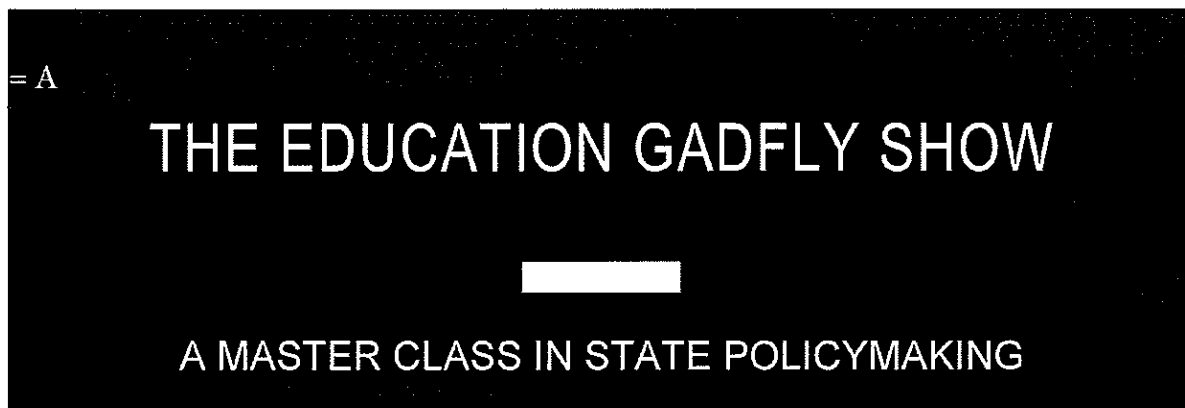
By Robert Pondiscio

Last month the *New York Times* profiled a “social-emotional-learning” curriculum inspired by a challenge from the Dalai Lama and developed at the University of Wisconsin–Madison. A teacher at a school that uses the curriculum was quoted as saying “Our world is kind of a scary place. We can’t always control what is happening outside us.” But which would have a more significant effect on students, particularly the very youngest ones: a good social-emotional-learning curriculum or a teacher who thinks the world is a scary place? Perhaps early childhood teachers who view the world as awe-inspiring and who are eager to share their optimism and excitement with students might be more beneficial than teaching coping skills. [Read more.](#)

How Ohio’s walk back of graduation requirements is like overprotective parenting

By Jamie Davies O’Leary

State-level policymaking should be like good parenting. It should incentivize the behaviors you’re looking to inspire, grant autonomy when your charges have earned it, and refrain from too much meddling or coddling. It should be transparent and honest, truthful about tradeoffs between short-term discomfort and long-term gain, and motivated by a clear compass rooted in what’s in the best interest of the kids’ wellbeing. So why does Ohio’s latest softening on what we expect of our high schoolers bring to mind so many parallels to helicopter parenting? [Read more.](#)



On this week's podcast, Benjamin Boer, deputy director at Advance Illinois, joins Mike Petrilli and Alyssa Schwenk to discuss how a coalition of advocates succeeded in getting the Land of Lincoln to overhaul its inequitable school funding formula. During the Research Minute, Amber Northern examines the relationship between high school value added and students' college success.



REVIEWS

STUDY

The link between the quality of high schools and their students' success in college

By Amber M. Northern, Ph.D.

Critics of test-based accountability sometimes argue that there's little evidence that schools that boost students' test scores also prepare them for long-term success. A recent Institute of Education Sciences–commissioned study by Daniel Hubbard helps to fill this gap. It finds a statistically positive relationship between high schools' value-added scores and students' first-year college course grades. [Read more.](#)

STUDY

School features associated with student growth in New Orleans charter schools

By Nicholas Munyan-Penney

A new study from Patrick J. Wolf of the University of Arkansas and Shannon Lasserre-Cortez of the American Institutes for Research examines charter school features that are most associated with high student growth in the Big Easy. Looking at fourteen organizational, operational, and instructional school characteristics, they find, among other things, that schools that include kindergarten, have an extended school year, and employ more experienced teachers all had

statistically significantly associations with growth in ELA; the presence of kindergarten was also associated with math growth. On the negative side, higher percentages of teachers with a graduate degree and higher student-teacher ratios were associated with declines. [Read more.](#)

WHAT WE'RE READING

- "Timing, we believe, is an art. In fact, timing is a science." —[The Atlantic](#)
- The frustrating and paradoxical nature of progress. —[Washington Post](#)
- Although many of us are happy to say goodbye to 2017, it was actually the best year in the history of humanity. —[New York Times](#)

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- Will *Janus v. AFSCME* cripple teachers unions? —[Weekly Standard](#)
- Are universities fueling our hostile political climate? —[City Journal](#)
- Twenty-five years under Massachusetts's landmark Education Reform Act of 1993. —[CommonWealth Magazine](#)
- The surprising makeup of today's college students. —[Wall Street Journal](#)
- An editorial board's argument for keeping accountability in education reform. —[Seattle Times](#)
- Overcoming school choice's overlooked challenges. —[Washington Post](#)

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FLYPAPER | JANUARY 10, 2018

Parent-teacher conferences: Harder to get into than a Jimmy Buffet concert?

By Erika Sanzi

Parents with multiple school-age children attend lots of parent-teacher conferences, and there's nothing universal about the experience. Some are great, some aren't, and the worst might be those at schools that don't provide meetings to every parent that wants one—a situation that's far too common. Indeed, most middle and high schools forgo conferences entirely. But there's something inherently wrong with this approach, and schools have to find a way to connect more teachers with more parents. Fortunately, some places do this well and can serve as models for those that don't. [Read more.](#)

FLYPAPER | JANUARY 9, 2018

Six intriguing candidates for New York City schools chancellor

By Charles Sahm

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With New York City Schools Chancellor Carmen Fariña stepping down and the de Blasio administration reportedly conducting a national search for her replacement, the director of education policy at the Manhattan Institute offers six serious (and not-so-serious) suggestions of intriguing candidates to run the city's schools during the mayor's second term. Hint: One of them wouldn't throw away his shot. [Read more.](#)

FLYPAPER | JANUARY 9, 2018

State ESSA plans embrace CTE, but there's still much work to be done

By Kate Kreamer and Ryan Reyna

The movement to expand career readiness is gaining strength across the country. That's what the executive director at Advance CTE and a senior associate at Education Strategy Group found in a joint brief that reviewed every state's Every Student Succeeds Act plan. Almost all include at least one strategy to encourage high-quality CTE, and, much more so than in the past, states are simultaneously creating more of these opportunities and holding schools accountable for graduating career-ready students. Unfortunately, it's too soon to declare victory because most states failed to fully leverage ESSA's flexibility to advance career readiness. [Read more.](#)

FYI

Register for “Making the Grade: Debating School Performance Ratings,” Thursday’s webinar from the Alliance for Excellent Education
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The Thomas B. Fordham Institute recently released *Rating the Ratings: An Analysis of the 51 ESSA Accountability Plans*, a report that examines rating systems submitted by all fifty states and the District of Columbia. This webinar will present the findings of that analysis, followed by a debate on the merits and downfalls of summative school ratings between Fordham’s Mike Petrilli and Phillip Lovell, vice president of policy development and government relations at the Alliance for Excellent Education. [Register now.](#)

Apply to be deputy communications director at the American Federation for Children
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The American Federation for Children is seeking a senior communications team member to help expand K–12 educational opportunities for families across the United States. The Deputy Communications Director will work extensively with the National Communications Director, AFC staff, and education reform partners in D.C. and the states to expand school choice nationwide. The position is based in Washington, D.C. [Click here](#) to learn more.

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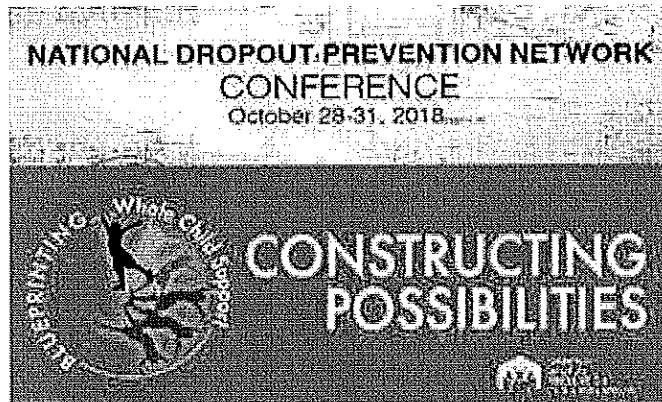
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Sent: Friday, February 2, 2018 6:36 AM

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Week of February 2, 2018

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JUMP TO A SECTION

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OHIO LEGISLATION UPDATE
House Bills
Senate Bills

OHIO

Central Ohio Schools

Report Shows Neediest Central Ohio Areas by Zip Code – Columbus Dispatch

- Households in several Columbus and Franklin County ZIP codes continue to struggle with rent and utility payments, while others need food assistance, according to study released Monday

HandsOn Central Ohio 2-1-1 Counts 2018 – Thoughtwell

- Thoughtwell merged important secondary data with original referral data from HandsOn Central Ohio, Columbus's 2-1-1 operator, at the zip code level to lend insight and granularity to local conditions in Columbus. 2-1-1 Counts highlights 10 indicators measuring quality of life, comparing 13 zip code groups from around Franklin County to compare and contrast conditions and need among residents in our community. In addition to this blended data analysis, the report also includes questions for readers to consider regarding how community needs are met, spurring follow-up questions and conversation

New Law Boosts Tech Curriculum – This Week

- Local education leaders have expressed enthusiasm for a bill aimed at increasing opportunities for students to study computer science in Ohio high schools

BEXLEY CITY SCHOOLS

Bexley Forum One Step toward 'Better' Goal on Special Education – This Week

- A public forum last week with Bexley City School District Superintendent Kimberly Pietsch Miller and representatives from parent group Bexley Education Stronger Together marked the start of an effort to evaluate and improve special education programs

BIG WALNUT LOCAL SCHOOLS

School Board Has Full House, Slate – Sunbury News

- Between recognizing all the achievers and the amount of business on the agenda, the Big Walnut Schools Board of Education meeting had a full house and a full slate on Jan. 18

CHILLICOTHE CITY SCHOOLS

Levy, Restructuring on School Board Agenda – Chillicothe Gazette

- The Chillicothe City Schools Board of Education will address several issues during a special meeting and work session Monday afternoon, including taking the next step toward placing a substitute tax levy on the ballot

Chillicothe School Officials Eye Building Transition Issues – Chillicothe Gazette

- Chillicothe City Schools district officials are exploring how the opening of the new elementary buildings next school year will impact everyone from students to teachers to parents

COLUMBUS CITY SCHOOLS

Emails Suggest Columbus Superintendent Vetting Process Not So Transparent – Columbus Dispatch

- The Columbus Board of Education has not only been interviewing a secret list of candidates to become the next district superintendent, but it has added names not on the list of 19 applicants it released in December

Columbus School Board Considers Massive Cuts to Deal with Anticipated Deficit – Columbus Dispatch

- The Columbus Board of Education got its first look at what \$21 million in cuts for next school year looks like, and it isn't pretty

DUBLIN CITY SCHOOLS

Parent University: Substance-Abuse Awareness Program Slated Feb. 6 – This Week

- To help prevent drug and alcohol abuse by youths, Dublin City School District officials are providing a game of hide-and-seek for parents and community members

GAHANNA-JEFFERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Gahanna-Jefferson Finalizes May Ballot Issue – This Week

- Gahanna-Jefferson school board members unanimously approved a resolution Jan. 25 to place an operating levy and a bond issue on the primary ballot

Gahanna-Jefferson Officials Pin Upgrades on May Issue – This Week

- Voters will find a tax issue on the May 8 ballot that, if approved, would fund a new elementary school and improvements for buildings for K-8 in the Gahanna-Jefferson Public Schools

GROVEPORT MADISON LOCAL SCHOOLS

Community Invited to Take Groveport Madison Schools' Online Survey – Columbus Messenger

- Groveport Madison Schools has launched a survey to obtain input from district residents and business owners on a variety of topics

OLENTANGY LOCAL SCHOOLS

District Logo, Brand under Microscope – This Week

- The Olentangy Local School District recently launched a branding project that could result in a new logo, among other benefits

OLSD Working on New Brand – Delaware Gazette

- A lot has changed for the Olentangy Local School District over the past two decades since adopting its current logo featuring a silhouette of an older student holding books while standing behind a younger student

Olentangy School Joins FLUency Program – Delaware Gazette

- With flu-associated hospitalizations in Delaware County since Oct. 1 over three times higher than the previous five-year average, a nationwide program aimed at keeping school-aged children healthy during flu season is set to kick off at Alum Creek Elementary School in Lewis Center

SOUTH-WESTERN CITY SCHOOLS

I Know I Can Now Includes SWCS – This Week

- Students at two South-Western high schools will have the opportunity for additional assistance in college and career readiness after Franklin County commissioners approved an expansion of the I Know I Can program

I Know I Can Expands into SWCS – Columbus Messenger

- South-Western City Schools District Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum Brad Faust said a new program, funded through the Franklin County Department of Job and Family Services, may help students answer those questions

UPPER ARLINGTON CITY SCHOOLS

State of the Schools Will Highlight District Progress – This Week School Notes

- Paul Imhoff, superintendent of Upper Arlington City Schools, writes that community members will have two opportunities to learn more about the exciting and innovative work happening right now in their schools to push them forward and ensure Upper Arlington schools continue to be on the forefront of education

WESTERVILLE CITY SCHOOLS

District Takes Facility Plan to Westerville Residents – This Week

- Westerville City School District leaders want to continue the conversation about updating school facilities

WORTHINGTON CITY SCHOOLS

Keegan Calls Bond Timing ‘No-Brainer’ – This Week

- Worthington Schools leaders still have several decisions to make before midsummer, but they are certain they will seek a bond issue on the November ballot

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Ohio Department of Education/State Board of Education

Professional Learning Resources to Support Ohio’s Revised Gifted Operating Standards Available – ODE

- To help Ohio school districts meet these requirements, the Ohio Leadership Advisory Council (OLAC) offers free professional learning resources developed by nationally recognized experts in gifted education

FY18 Career Technical Concentrator Data Appeal Window Now Open – ODE

- Superintendents of traditional districts, community schools and joint vocational school districts required to report career-technical education follow-up data in EMIS can review the students included in their 2018 March (D) lists from Monday, Jan. 29 through Friday, Feb. 23

2018 Federal Quota Registration of Blind Students Registration Form Deadline Extended to March 1 – ODE

- Each registered student must have a current eye report, issued in 2015 or later, on file in the student’s district of attendance. The submission deadline for the registration form included in the packet has been extended to March 1

Reviewers Needed for Striving Readers Grant Applications – ODE

- The Department is seeking experts in language and literacy development and education to read and score Striving Readers Comprehensive Literacy subgrant applications

Kindergarten Readiness Assessment Focus Group Sessions – ODE

- The Department's Office for Early Learning and School Readiness invites early childhood professionals to take part in one of the upcoming Kindergarten Readiness Assessment Focus Group sessions via a virtual meeting space

ODE Announces Summer Food Service Program Plans – ODE

- With the help of numerous sponsoring agencies and stakeholders, the Summer Food Service Program works to feed thousands of children in Ohio. Since 2014, Ohio has increased participation in the program by 10 percent

College Credit Plus Funding Application – ODE/ODHE

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Ohio Education & Public Policy

Closing of ECOT Halts State Collection of \$53.6 Million School Owes – Columbus Dispatch

- ECOT's closure has brought a halt to state efforts to recover millions in improperly spent tax dollars

ECOT Closure Doesn't Block Recovery of \$80 Million, State Superintendent Says: Ohio Has "Other Options" – Cleveland Plain Dealer

- Ohio has "other options" to recover money from ECOT, even though the controversial online school has closed, State Superintendent Paolo DeMaria told the state school board Monday

Tuition Trust Keeps Higher Education at Forefront amid Federal Policy Shift – Hannah

- Federal lawmakers substantially expanded the scope of college savings accounts in last year's tax overhaul, letting Americans spend up to \$10,000 per year for K-1 expenses as well. The state agency overseeing the Ohio-sponsored 529 accounts welcomes the chance to bring more people into the fold, but says post-high school learning will remain the focus of its efforts

New Ohio Law Focuses on Computer Science, Lets Students Avoid Algebra 2 – EdWeek

- An Ohio law signed recently by Gov. John Kasich will create state standards for teaching computer science and coding to K-12 students, in a move that supporters argue will have a long-term payoff for the state's economy and workforce

Union for Non-Teaching School Employees Suing to Block Freeze of Retirement Benefits – Columbus Dispatch

- The union representing school-bus drivers, cafeteria workers, janitors and other non-teaching school employees filed a lawsuit Thursday seeking to block a three-year cost-of-living freeze imposed on its retirees by the School Employees Retirement System

Ohio's Future Prosperity Tied to Educational Attainment, Experts Say – Hannah

- Legislative, K-12, higher education and business leaders convened Wednesday to highlight Ohio's lagging educational attainment and discuss ways to get more degree and credentials into the hands of Ohioans

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Ohio Postsecondary & Workforce Development

Public Universities Struggle as Ohio, Other States Put Brakes on Funding – Columbus Dispatch

- Across the country, state funding for higher education grew by just 1.3 percent from 2017 to 2018, a sign that states are struggling to sustain revenue streams needed to support colleges and universities, experts say

Ohio's Future Prosperity Tied to Educational Attainment, Experts Say – Hannah

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College Credit Plus Funding Application – ODE/ODHE

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Ohio Reports

Measuring Up to the Model: A Ranking of State Public Charter School Laws – National Alliance for Public Charter Schools/Western Michigan University

- For the second year in a row, the 2018 rankings measure each state's charter school law against the National Alliance's updated model charter school law, New Model Law for Supporting the Growth of High-Quality Public Charter Schools: Second Edition, released in October 2016. The Ninth Edition of Measuring Up to the Model ranks public charter school laws in 44 states and the District of Columbia. Each law receives a score based on 21 essential metrics, flexibility, accountability, and equity

- Ohio was ranked 23 out of 45 states

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NATIONAL/WORLD

Federal & US Department of Education

Trump Likely to Propose Big Changes to Education Research Budget – EdWeek

- The Trump administration's budget, due out next month, is likely to combine three significant research programs--the State Longitudinal Data System program, the Regional Educational Laboratory Program, and the Comprehensive Centers--advocates with knowledge of the proposal said

Trump Calls on Congress to Help 'Dreamers,' Bolster Borders – EdWeek

- There was almost no mention of K-12 schools in the speech, including Trump's favorite issue: school choice. Trump did ask lawmakers to enact paid family leave, and gave a quick nod to the importance of career and technical education

Our Nation's English Learners - USDOE

- Information about the characteristics and location of ELs in the following story map may help inform decisions about the provision of instructional supports and services for these students. These figures represent the latest look at ELs across the country, primarily using publicly available data for the 2014–15 and 2009–10 school years. See figure notes for specific data sources

USDOE Personnel Announcement – USDOE

- U.S. Department of Education announced today one new hire and additional personnel announcements

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Education Policy & Finance

Here Are the Teachers' Unions' Arguments in the Supreme Court Case on Union Fees – EdWeek